The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Vol. XVII DECEMBER, 1906 No. 12

CONTENTS

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CHINA

An Account of the Marvelous Transformation in Progress in the Empire

By Hon. JOHN W. FOSTER

Formerly U. S. Secretary of State

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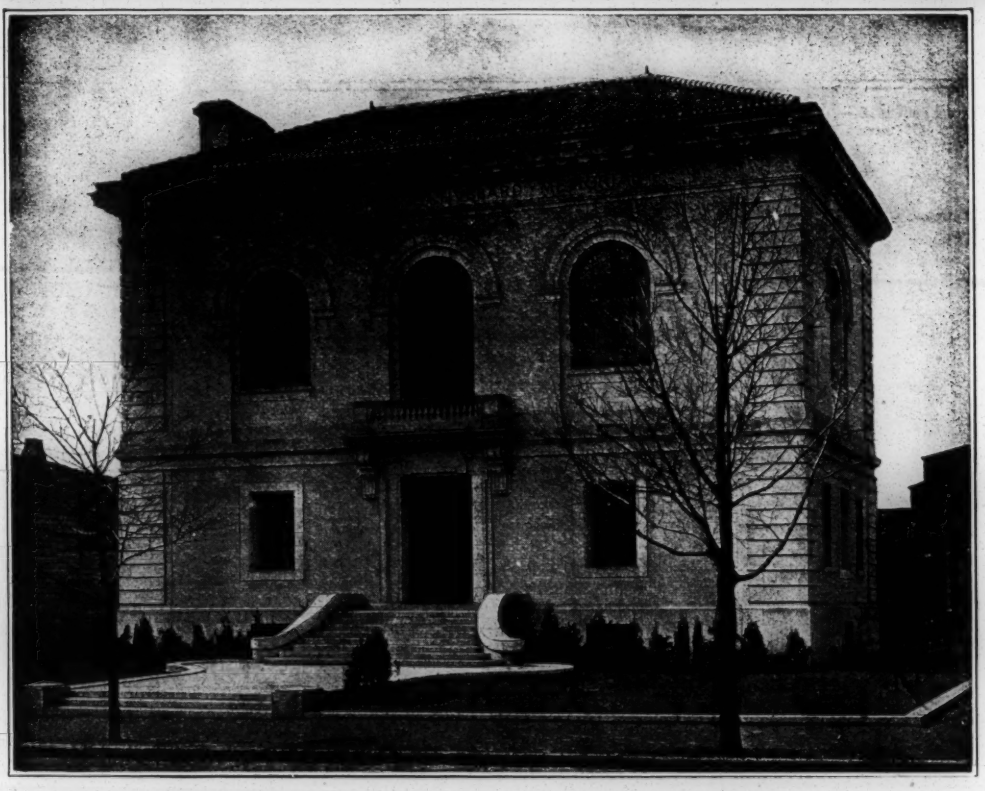

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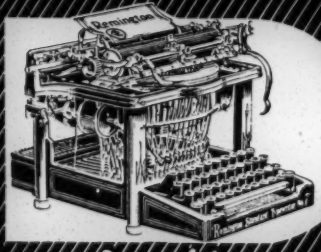

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VOL. XVII, No. 12 WASHINGTON DECEMBER, 1906

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CHINA*

BY HON. JOHN W. FOSTER

FORMERLY U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE

IN a previous course of addresses given under the auspices of the National Geographic Society I had the privilege of speaking upon the Chinese Empire, its people and government. At that time I dwelt mainly upon its long history, its great achievements in the past, and its valuable contribution to the philosophy, science, invention, and industries of the world. I have been asked to speak at this time upon the present conditions in that Empire.

In my former address† it was seen that the ruling spirit which characterized this great people, numbering approximately one-fourth of the world's population, was an intense conservatism. They were justly proud of the achievements of their race, and were wedded to the principles and customs which had built up and perpetuated their Empire. They looked upon the innovations which were sought to be introduced through western civilization with a feeling of fear and aversion. Their intercourse with the nations which were the champions of this western civilization created at first suspicion, which at last ripened into hostility. The Europeans who sought intercourse with them manifested a disposition to gain their end by violence, culminating in a succession of wars, in which China was invariably worsted. The wars were attended or followed by enforced treaties, in which territory was surrendered to the Europeans; foreign settlements were established in almost every available port within the Empire, wherein the imperial government gave up a part of its sovereignty; its right to fix its customs tariff and regulate its foreign trade was taken from it; its treasury was despoiled by vast indemnities for exaggerated damages exacted under duress of arms; and in various other ways its sovereignty was infringed and its independence restricted.

A NEW ERA IN CHINA

Under such circumstances it was perfectly natural that a feeling of resentment against foreigners should pervade the Empire. But the Chinese are an eminently practical people. Despite their pride of race and their conservatism, they have come to realize that the nations which have enforced this unwilling in-

*An address to the National Geographic Society, December 7, 1906.
†Published in the National Geographic Magazine, December, 1904.

tercourse and deprived them of so many of the attributes of sovereignty possess elements of power and prosperity which they do not enjoy. It has at last become apparent to them that the system, venerated for its antiquity, which has made of them a great and enduring race, must in the light of modern civilization be so modified in its social, industrial, and governmental features as to enable them to compete with the western nations in prosperity, power, and independence.

Hence a new era has dawned upon China. It shall be my purpose to show the steps which have been and are being taken by its government and people to bring them abreast of modern progress, and to enable them to take their proper place among the nations of the earth—a place which the vision of a political seer might fix in the van of all the nations.

Probably the most distinguishing characteristic of this ancient Empire and people has been their intellectual development and education. In the first epoch of even their prehistoric age their study of philosophy was noted, and centuries before Christ they had produced in Confucius and Mencius philosophers who stand on a level of intellectual attainments with Socrates and with the best products of ancient or modern times. We shall see that they possessed a code of laws and system of jurisprudence at least contemporaneous with Hammurabi and many centuries before Justinian. For nearly two thousand years they have made scholastic attainments the first requisite to admission to the public service, and schools under the patronage of the government have for many centuries existed in every province and district of the Empire.

THE REFORM IN EDUCATION

But the curriculum of education was confined to Chinese subjects—to a study of its classics, its history, poetry, system of government and society. Up to a very recent date an educated Chinese knew little or nothing of the outside history of the world, its philosophy or literature, its science or economics. As a result, they ranked abroad as an ignorant race, and their public men, although possessed often of superior intellectual endowments, stood at a great disadvantage in their intercourse with foreign governments and in commercial affairs.

Besides, education was confined to a limited class of the people—to those who were seeking admission to the public service or to what were known as the literati or gentry of the community. The great mass of the population were uneducated, being unable to read or write, and almost entirely ignorant of the world beyond, although possessed of a knowledge of their local rights, with a disposition to assert them. To this ignorance was added a blind superstition, which influenced their every-day life and especially their intercourse with foreigners.

It became evident, not only to the rulers, but to the intelligent people, that China could never attain her true position among the nations until a radical change was made in its educational system. First, the course of study must be entirely changed, the old method of an exclusive instruction in Chinese studies be given a subordinate place, and the modern course, or what is known as the western learning, assigned to the prominent position; second, the schools must not be confined to the literati and aspirants for office, but extended to the common people as fully and as rapidly as possible.

Following this program, a great change has taken place in the last few years. Intelligent viceroys like Chang Chih-tung and Yuan Shih-kai did not wait for an imperial initiative from Peking, but upon their own authority they entered upon the work of establishing schools of western learning. Other viceroys and governors, inspired by their example, fell in with the movement, and the authorities in the prefectures and districts are striving to meet the popular demand for the new schools; so that the movement has spread rapidly throughout the entire Empire, and there is not a single one of the

eighteen provinces in which the new system has not been established.

The metropolitan province of Chihli, feeling the new inspiration of the court, has done most in this direction. In Peking the new schools are rapidly increasing, and in the adjoining district of Tung Chou alone as many as ninety are reported. Under the special direction of the Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai, more than three thousand have been opened in the province and are in operation. A similar condition exists in the provinces under the sway of the venerable Viceroy Chang Chih-tung. At Nanking, the ancient capital and the seat of an important viceroyalty, the new learning has been warmly received. It will indicate something of the interest shown in this direction when I mention that a Japanese gentleman, described as "of forceful personality and scholarly attainments," who is now on a visit to the leading cities of China to explain to her students and scholars the secret of Japan's wonderful progress, a few weeks ago delivered a series of lectures at Nanking which were attended by five hundred students of the collegiate institutions there. It is reported that he eloquently set forth patriotism, a broad-minded willingness to learn, and the sense of individual rights as the secret of what Japan has done and urged the Chinese to follow in the same path.

This educational movement is not confined to the ordinary common schools and colleges, but in various of the provinces there are being founded normal and agricultural institutes, manual-training schools, schools for mechanical engineering, electricity, use of modern machinery, and the like. In most of the schools physical exercise has been introduced, a complete innovation for the Chinese, and the branch of western civilization exemplified in base and foot ball, cricket, &c., is heartily welcomed by them.

SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS INAUGURATED

The most gratifying feature of the new movement is the readiness with which the Chinese have accepted schools for girls and the rapidity with which female education, hitherto unknown, has spread throughout the country. The Empress Dowager set the example by ordering that a large Lama convent be transformed into a girls' school, and several princesses have undertaken to establish such schools at their own expense in Peking, and besides have started schools in their own palaces for their daughters and their relatives. There are now in Peking a number of public girls' schools in which are taught arithmetic, geography, foreign history, and languages, and in many of them music, drawing, calisthenics, needlework, writing, physiology, hygiene, and nursing. By an order of the board of education, no pupils whose feet are bound are admitted to these schools. As indicating the advance in female education, a project is being carried into effect by Yuan Shih-kai to establish a female medical school.

Tuan Fang, who was a member of the imperial commission which visited the United States and Europe early in the present year, has on his return to Peking awakened a new interest in female education by the report of his observations, especially in the United States, which led the board of education to take measures, it is stated, to push ahead female schools throughout the Empire without any further procrastination. Tuan Fang's idea is that graduates of female high and normal schools may be put in charge of primary schools, and, with a constantly growing number of educated women, children will have in the near future the valuable privilege of a mother's teaching at home, the real school for patriots. None, he says, are greater patriots and more loyal to a government than women.

THE LITERARY EXAMINATIONS, CENTURIES OLD IN PRACTICE, HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED

After the schools of modern learning had been established all over the Empire, the important question arose what was to become of the literary examinations, through which admission was obtained

to the public service. For many centuries the competitive examinations, hoary with age and venerated by the literati and the great mass of the officials, had been the road to imperial honor and office. If that system was to continue it was plain that the progressive men of the Empire would not be able to make the spread of modern education a permanent success. Hence in 1905 an important step was taken by them. Six of the most influential officials, together with others, joined in a memorial to the throne to abolish the ancient curriculum of studies and adopt a new one for the competitive examinations, which would embrace the modern learning as taught in the new schools. At the head of these was Chang Chih-tung, described by Minister Rockhill as the most celebrated living scholar in China; next came Yuan Shih-kai, the most powerful man today in the Empire, and four others, the more important viceroys and governors of provinces. It was an array of names which indicated in a most impressive way the strong hold which the reform movement had taken upon the country. Although the memorial was stoutly opposed by the conservatives in the Court circle, it was approved by the Emperor and Empress Dowager and an edict was issued abolishing the old curriculum of study and the new system adopted. Henceforth no one can pass the competitive examination who has not pursued with success the required course in modern learning.

The importance of this step can hardly be exaggerated. It was the culmination of a bitter contest for reform; but its success does not indicate the end of the difficulties for the new education. The greatest defect of the movement is that it has no well-planned and methodical system, with the power and resources to support it. Its advocates recognize this, and a central board of education has been organized at Peking to meet this difficulty. Its task is attended by serious embarrassments. Its members are themselves in large measure ignorant of their duties, and unless they call in expert assistance they are likely to make grave mistakes. There are no funds at their disposal and resources have to be provided. These will come from taxation and voluntary contributions. The latter are being made with surprising liberality, both in the capital and in the provincial cities, in some instances as much as ten thousand taels being contributed by single individuals.

OFFERINGS TO THE DEAD PROHIBITED

It will indicate something of the earnest spirit which is enlisted in this educational movement if I give one or two instances of the methods resorted to for adding to the funds to sustain it. Within the present year the commissioner of police of Tientsin, a city of over a million of inhabitants, has issued an official notification prohibiting the holding of celebrations or making offerings to the dead on the great festival of All Souls. The commissioner strongly advises the people to contribute to the educational fund the money intended to be spent in offering sacrifices to the spirits; as, he says, "with a view of equipping themselves and their families for the exercise of electoral power."

In August last the Shanghai magistrate agreed to issue a proclamation, in response to the petition of the native educational committee and the commercial association, exhorting the people of that district to divert the large sums of money used during the three festivals for the dead to the vastly more worthy and practical object of endowing and establishing more schools of modern learning. An extract from the account of these festivals in the Shanghai *News* will show how appropriate is the official exhortation for the increase of intelligence among the Chinese people. It states that immense sums of money are expended by the votaries of the Taoist and Buddhist religions in Shanghai and everywhere in the Empire in the purchase of incense, candles, paper clothes and money to burn on the three festivals of the dead to the use of the inhabitants of the nether regions, who at that time are let out from hades to re-

visit the upper world. On those three days the tutelary diety of the city is carried out from his temple in solemn procession to preside over the public burning and the offering of food, "to keep order amongst the spirits and to preserve the peace amongst them." The diety is always accompanied by thousands upon thousands of devotees of all ages and sexes, in red clothes and disheveled hair, as condemned criminals, in return for some fancied answering of prayer. In addition, similar burnings and offerings of food are performed in the private houses. All of these cost the people of Shanghai, at a modest estimate, a quarter of a million of dollars; and to this there should be added $100,000 paid on these occasions to Taoist and Buddhist priests for prayers to the dead. The enlightened Chinese officials exhort their countrymen to give up their idolatrous practices and apply the money thus wasted to the more worthy work of educating the coming generation in their duties to sovereign and country.

BUT SPIRIT OF SUPERSTITION NOT YET OVERCOME

It is thus seen that one of the first effects of the educational movement is a blow at the superstitious practices, upon which vast sums of money are squandered. The financial embarrassment which retards the establishment of schools would be solved at once if the advice of the Tientsin and Shanghai officials was followed. Many will doubtless act upon the advice of the intelligent officials, but the spirit of superstition will not easily be overcome. The troubles which the new schools encounter may be illustrated by an incident which occurred a few months ago in one of the most populous provinces. At Kweilin a provincial college had been established, and its faculty, possessed of a zeal for the new learning, caused a school-house in foreign style to be built in an adjoining district, and it soon had a hundred students in uniform in attendance. In the district for two months there had been no rain during the growing season, and, the crops being threatened by the drouth, the country people joined in a procession to the temple to pray for rain. Now, in the province of Kwangsi it is thought to be most unpropitious if the procession of suppliants for rain should happen to meet any one clothed in white or wearing a hat. This procession on its way to the temple had to pass by the new school-house, and the boys came out to see the procession, wearing their white uniform and straw hats. This, combined with the foreign appearance of the school-house, caused angry murmurs to pass through the crowd, and very soon these culminated in a violent attack on the school and the students. Several were badly beaten and all who were caught had their white suits torn from their backs. The town magistrate intervened to restore order, but was himself severely handled and knocked down with a stone. Only the arrival of soldiers prevented greater damage. The crowd was dispersed, leaving the school-house in a dilapidated condition. The head-master and teachers were greatly frightened, "threw up their job," and fled to the provincial college.

"THE COMING OF THE CIGARETTE"

A correspondent in the same paper from which the foregoing is taken gives an account of an incident not entirely in line with the subject I am discussing, but it is illustrative of the new spirit of enterprise which is awakening the great Empire and in which certain American interests are taking an active part. Under the heading of "The coming of the cigarette" he writes:

"Nanking has at length, for the first time in its long history, fallen a victim to Western advertisement enterprise. Two agents of the American Tobacco Company recently spent two weeks in this city, and now about the gates of our two-thousand-year-old walls and on almost every other conspicious place one sees flaming advertisements of American cigarettes.

"The strangers seem also to have pre-

sented cigarettes with such lavish generosity to the man in the street that his suspicions have been aroused; he does not know what the hoped-for *quid pro quo* is, but feels sure that the motive was not philanthropy. A report was therefore started that the cigarettes were injurious, and that it was a wholesale attempt to poison the people. As a result, some public-spirited students prepared a number of posters which they pasted under the new advertisements, informing the people that the tobacco contained opium or morphia and warning them against smoking to their hurt. This is said to have neutralized the effect of the advertisements in the popular mind and given a temporary check to the cigarette trade."

A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR THE PEOPLE

Returning to the subject of education, another important benefit to result from the general system of schools throughout the Empire is to provide a common language for the people. There are many dialects in the different provinces, and on the seaboard especially between Shanghai and the southern border almost every district has its own dialect; so that it is often impossible for the inhabitants of adjoining localities to communicate with each other, except through the written language. The new regulations require the Mandarin dialect to be used in the instruction in all the government schools. Hence it may be expected that the coming generation, educated in the schools, will speak a common language, and this should greatly tend toward the consolidation of the Empire.

The croakers, mainly among the foreign residents, predict that what they term the educational craze will soon lose its force, that the inexperienced board of education at Peking will not be able to skillfully direct it, that the financial schemes will prove ineffective, and that there will be in time a return to the antiquated methods. The advocates and supporters of the new education are likely to encounter opposition and disappointment before their plans are fully successful, but I believe their hopes will be eventually realized. An intelligent observer, writing from the capital of the province of Fukien, says:

"The new education has struck this place with full force. The old schools have disappeared. Everywhere one meets boys in caps and uniforms, with school books under their arms. The books are as modern as their appearance, and they are of all ages from 7 to 8 years to past 30 years. There can be no successful reaction in China now. The new educational movement all through the provinces makes it impossible."*

CHINESE EDUCATED IN AMERICA BECOMING PROMINENT

About thirty years ago the Chinese government entered upon the project of sending boys selected from good families to be educated in the United States, several scores of them were placed in families and schools in New England, and the enterprise bid fair to assume very large proportions. Coincident with the demand from California for the exclusion of Chinese laborers, which led to the exclusion treaty of 1880, the conservatives in the government brought about a cessation of the movement. Those who were educated in this country returned to their native land, but they were not welcomed by the then ruling powers in the government. They were in great measure excluded from the public service, for which they were well fitted; but in late years many of them have been given prominent places in the government and are now most conspicuous in inaugurating and carrying forward the reform movements of the day.

One of the important and influential persons in Peking is Tang Shao-yi (or Tong Shon Tee), one of the American educated students sent to this country in

*An interesting report on the new educational movement, prepared by the intelligent Chinese Secretary of the American Legation, Edward T. Williams, will be found in Foreign Relations of the United States, 1905, p. 197.

1875. He is now a member of the Board of Foreign Affairs and the ruling spirit of that important body. He negotiated with Great Britain the new Tibetan treaty, and has recently been made one of the new customs board, having to do with both foreign and interior taxes. The Empress Dowager, to signalize her appreciation of his talent and services, has conferred on him a high rank, never before bestowed on any but Manchus of the highest order. Dr Morrison, the well-known correspondent of the London *Times*, in a late dispatch pays a high tribute to his capacity and uprightness.

Another of the American students of the seventies is the present Imperial Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, Sir Chentung Liang Cheng. It is no flattery to say that the Chinese Empire has never before had so able a representative in Washington, a cultivated gentleman and one who appreciates the friendship and good will of the government and people of the United States. Others of the American students of that period are also filling high places in the Empire.

For the past twenty years the Chinese students in American schools and colleges have been numbered annually only by the scores when they might have been by the hundreds or even thousands. Until President Roosevelt issued his order in June of last year, putting an end to the harsh measures of the Immigration Bureau, it was almost impossible for a Chinese youth to secure admission to the United States to pursue his education. We can only conjecture what might have been the influence on the destiny of that great people if the practice of sending students to America by the Chinese government thirty years ago had not been discontinued.

FOREIGN DIPLOMAS WELCOMED

One of the influences which has deterred students from going abroad has been the practice of not crediting them with the education thus acquired, but of compelling them on their return to take up the antiquated Chinese studies and spend years in preparing to pass the competitive examination which was required for admission to the lowest ranks of the public service. An imperial edict, however, was issued last year which recognized the value of foreign education to Chinese officials by conferring on quite a number of students lately returned from Japan the examination degrees and appointing them at once to official positions. But a still more important step in this direction was taken two months ago. All Chinese holding foreign diplomas were invited by the board of education to submit themselves at Peking for examination in the subjects they had studied abroad, and similar examinations are to be held hereafter annually. A large number responded, of whom 42 were admitted, 23 with Japanese degrees, 17 with American, and one each with English and German. They were allowed to use either Chinese or a foreign language. The London *Times* correspondent reports that 9 were granted the degree of Chinese doctorate, 23 that of master of arts, and 10 were rejected. It is interesting to note that of the 9 doctors 8 had studied in the United States, the highest being a graduate of Yale, and it is reported that "those who had studied in the United States proved themselves superior to all the others." The successful candidates were to have the high honor of being received by the Emperor, and their way is opened to the government service. It is gratifying to learn that graduates of the mission colleges in China were admitted to these examinations.

These measures and the encouragement of the imperial and provincial governments to study abroad have given a great impetus to the exodus of Chinese students to foreign lands. The imperial government has directed that the students in the different countries be placed under the care of the respective diplomatic representatives, and in execution of this duty Sir Chentung Liang Cheng assembled all the Chinese stu-

dents in the United States in a conference at Amherst, Massachusetts, last summer, and three days were passed in comparing experiences and in considering the best methods of making their stay abroad most useful to their country.

A WOMEN'S DAILY NEWSPAPER, EDITED BY WOMEN

Not the least of the agencies which have brought about the new educational movement has been the rapid multiplication of vernacular newspapers in China. An old resident of the country, in commenting upon this innovation, writes that five years ago a man seen reading a newspaper was ridiculed as a follower of the foreign devils. Now they are published in every important town in the Empire and are widely read by the people. Today there are ten native daily newspapers published in Peking alone. One of these is a women's daily, edited by women, dealing with foreign and domestic news, politics, history, geography, astronomy, as well as the training of children and the care of infants. The introduction of women into the body politic is one of the most astonishing features of the present awakening. Our minister in communicating the details of the boycott of American goods last year to the State Department transmitted the fact that one of the largest mass meetings in Shanghai to encourage the boycott was held in the Wupen girls' school, and that it was attended "by a large number of Chinese ladies, both old and young, who followed with intelligent interest the speeches that were made at the meeting."

REVISING A CODE 2000 YEARS OLD

The revision which is now going on in the Chinese penal code is one of the most important of the reforms which have been recently instituted, for it tends to the accomplishment of two very desirable results—first, the relief of the people from the ancient cruel and barbarous punishments; and, second, the eventual release of the country from subjection to the very irritating practice of exterritoriality.

We are accustomed to look upon the Chinese system of jurisprudence as crude and almost barbaric. The oft-repeated statement of foreign residents that there are no lawyers in the Empire and what we hear of the methods of administering justice confirm us in this opinion. But the fact is that the Chinese people have enjoyed for very many centuries the benefit of a well-digested code of laws, embracing in large measure the elementary principles of jurisprudence which distinguish the systems of law of the present day. Two thousand years ago the reigning Emperor caused the laws, which had been enforced in the Empire for centuries before, to be codified, and the compilation constituted forty volumes, each volume being devoted to a specified branch of law. Since then this code has undergone various changes, under different dynasties, but it has remained the fundamental structure of Chinese jurisprudence.

The code as it now exists was revised and published in 1647, three years after the present Manchu dynasty began its reign. The emperor in his preface to the publication states that a numerous body of magistrates was assembled at the capital to revise and digest the code, by the exclusion or introduction of such matter as "was likely to contribute to the attainment of justice and the general perfection of the work." When prepared, it was submitted to a select number of the great officers of state to carefully examine the whole. "Wherefore," says the emperor, "let it be your great care, officers and magistrates of the interior and exterior departments of our Empire, diligently to observe the same, and to forbear in future to give any decision, or to pass any sentence, according to your private sentiments, or upon your unsupported authority. Thus shall the magistrates and people took up with awe and submission to the justice of these institutions, * * * and be equally secured for endless generations in the enjoyment

of the happy efforts of the great and noble virtues of our illustrious progenitors."*

This later code, however, while preserving the enlightened principles which distinguished the ancient jurisprudence, was, we learn from the imperial edict of last year, disfigured and degraded by the introduction of the cruel and more severe punishments of the Manchus—a race more barbarous than the refined and enlightened Chinese. It is this portion of the code which has recently undergone radical modifications.

THE HORRIBLE METHODS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ABANDONED

The forms of capital punishment heretofore in practice have been changed to simple decapitation and strangulation. They were horrible in their methods and largely based upon superstitious ideas of the future life. The execution by dismemberment was termed in Chinese "death by slicing," or "lingering death." The offender was tied to a stake or cross and the body gradually sliced beyond recognition. It is said, however, not to have been a lingering death, as the third cut was usually the fatal one. The purpose of this sentence was not so much the torture of the criminal in this world as to make his fate more dreadful in the world to come. As his body was unrecognizable here, so his spirit will be unrecognizable in the other world, unless the fragments of his body can be brought together again. This form of punishment was reserved for such heinous crimes as high treason, parricide, or the murder of a husband.

The punishment of "decapitation, with exposure of the head," was one degree more severe than simple decapitation. In the latter case the body is delivered to the relatives, who are permitted to have the head sewn on, so that the deceased may not wander headless in the land of shades. "Beheading the corpse" was the practice of carrying into execution the sentence of decapitation when the condemned had died in prison and been buried. Cases are cited where the body was exhumed and cut to pieces. Strangulation is regarded as less igonminious than decapitation, as there is no dismemberment.

Lesser forms of punishment have been branding on the arm or the face, applied to hardened criminals, which has been abolished; and corporal punishment by beating with the bamboo, which has been lightened.

It has been customary in the case of certain serious offenses to punish the relatives of a criminal as well as the criminal himself for his crime, as the Chinese law proceeded upon the assumption of the responsibility of the family for the acts of each of its members. It was an unjust procedure, but it often operated as a deterrent of crimes. This has been entirely abolished by the imperial edict.

EXAMINATION BY TORTURE AND INDEFINITE DETENTION IN PRISON ABOLISHED

It has been a common practice in the Chinese courts to examine the accused with the aid of torture. It is based upon the theory that the prisoner must acknowledge his guilt before he can be punished. The same practice has been resorted to respecting witnesses. All this has been done away with likewise. Steps have also been taken to put a stop to another serious abuse, the detention indefinitely in prison of persons charged with offenses and of witnesses alleged to be important for the conviction. Many have languished for years without a trial. It was a crying evil, especially in civil cases, as where a debtor was kept in prison until some settlement could be forced out of his relatives. The same word in Chinese is used for "prison" and "hell."

The places of confinement are said to be usually of the most wretched and filthy character. The imperial edict directs that a rigid and frequent inspection be made of them for the purpose of preventing unjust imprisonments and for

*For further examination, see Chinese in Law and Commerce, by T. R. Jernigan, 1905.

improving the condition of the prisons. The edict concludes with these words:

"Let each official be diligent in seeking the welfare of the people, and give earnest attention to the settlement of litigation, and so fulfill the purpose of the throne to have compassion upon the lowly and to lighten their punishments."*

The foregoing has been a somewhat gruesome narrative, but I have thought the recital necessary in order to show what a notable advance the Chinese government has made within the past two years in the criminal procedure of its courts. And yet it does not become us to be too severe upon these Orientals for the backward state of their methods of punishment, for it has not been many generations since the Christian nations emerged from a similar regime. William of Orange, the heroic defender of the Protestant faith, the ruler of one of the most enlightened and humane nations of modern times, was assassinated by a religious fanatic. Listen to the punishment inflicted by a judicial tribunal upon the murderer: He was condemned to have his right hand pressed in a case of red-hot iron; his arms, legs, and thighs torn with hot pincers; his chest cut open, his heart torn out and thrown in his face; the head severed from the body and stuck on a pike; the body quartered and each part placed over a gate of the city. Within a century, in England and America capital punishment was inflicted for a much longer list of and much less serious offenses than in China. Within the memory of many who hear me tonight imprisonment for debt was enforced in the United States. Happily for mankind the world around, we are living today in a better age, and China is seeking to take her place among the humane nations of the earth.

CHINA PLANS TO MAKE ITS COURTS SUITED TO FOREIGNERS

The other motive which has impelled the imperial government to this reform has been to place it more speedily in a position to follow the example of Japan and demand release from the exterritorial regime. Under this practice, as is well known, foreigners who by their acts in China subject themselves to criminal or civil litigation must have their cases tried before their own consul, as they are exempt from the jurisdiction of the Chinese courts. Besides, in all the important ports a foreign settlement is established with metes and bounds, within which Chinese sovereignty is not exercised as against the foreign municipality.

This is a condition which is very humiliating to Chinese pride and a source of much discontent, but it is a condition which must continue until the system of jurisprudence of the Empire is brought more nearly into harmony with that of the western nations, and its courts are so purified as to make it safe for foreigners to be subjected to their jurisdiction, with an assurance that justice will be administered fairly and free from corrupting influences. A long step has been taken in the direction of enfranchisement by the reforms which I have noted in the criminal procedure, but much still remains to be done. Japan had to wait for ten years, after it had entirely reformed its code so as to conform to the western system of laws and had completely reorganized its judiciary system, before the nations with which it had treaties consented to the abolition of the exterritorial regime.

THE NEW ARMY

For many generations China has been the least warlike of any of the great nations. Her most venerated philosopher and statesman, Confucius, taught its people that nations as well as individuals should settle their differences by appeals to right and justice. Consequently the soldier has occupied a low place in the social and political organization of the country. The tiller of the soil and the industrial classes have been preferred before him. But in the last century of

*For edicts and notes thereon, see U. S. Foreign Relations, 1905, p. 176.

intercourse with the Christian nations the Chinese have learned that another spirit and a different practice governs the affairs of mankind. They have seen that the blasphemous declaration of the greatest warrior of modern times, that God is always on the side of the heaviest battalions, governs the conduct, if not the belief, of Christendom.

They have been slow to learn this sad fact, but they have awakened at last to its reality. They did not reach this conclusion, however, until they had suffered the disastrous results of three unjust wars with European powers, and until an allied army, insignificant in numbers but powerful in modern armament, had twice invaded their territory and almost unopposed had seized the capital and dictated humiliating and oppressive terms of peace. The conduct of their comparatively small but warlike neighbor, Japan, in equipping itself with the latest methods and appliances of modern slaughter and overthrowing in armed conflict China's most dreaded foe was also a very impressive lesson.

The weakness of China, from a military point of view, has impressed strongly its rulers, and measures have been in progress for a few years past to create a numerous and powerful army, trained and equipped in the most advanced modern methods. Antedating the action of the central government, the two most advanced of the viceroys, Yuan Shih-kai and Chang Chih-tung, set to work to organize such armies, and great progress has already been made by them. In these two viceroyalties there are now not less than 150,000 soldiers, drilled and equipped on a modern military basis. Other viceroys and governors are following their example, and the imperial government is assuming the general control of all these forces, which will constitute in time an army rivaling in numbers, training, and outfit those of Japan and the military nations of Europe.

What is termed the Northern Army, under Yuan-Shih-kai, held manœuvers in the autumn of last year, which were attended by the foreign military attachés at Peking, and they reported with surprise that they had seen a formidable modern army, and that they had witnessed "a display momentous and epoch-making in the history of the Far East." Similar manœuvers were held in October last, in which divisions from the two armies took part. The London *Times* correspondent, in giving a report of these latter, says: "The general opinion formed at the manœuvers by the military attachés was not unfavorable, though many years' work * * * will be needed before the troops can claim equality with those of more advanced nations." It would seem that this great and populous Empire had at last laid aside its antiquated notions of right and justice, and had entered into the fierce competition of the Christian nations for preserving the peace of the world with vast armies and formidable navies.

FOREIGN ARMY CRITICISM

Some foreign military critics are inclined, however, to minimize the importance of this movement. They say that the making of an army is a matter of years; that a fighting instinct must be created and a patriotic spirit must be back of it, in both of which the Chinese race is deficient. Up to a recent period the literati, who give tone to public opinion, have looked down upon the fighting men, and it is questionable whether they do not still. Men of real influence in the army, they say, are rare and it lacks capable generals. Absolute integrity is necessary, and great corruption is known to have existed in the purchase of armament and supplies. There is no medical staff, the organization is weak in cavalry, desertion is rampant, and many other improvements are necessary before the Chinese can successfully meet a Japanese or a European army.

There is much truth in this criticism; but all of the difficulties cited may be overcome in time by persistency, of which the Chinese have an abundance, and by right methods, which they appear

to be applying as rapidly as possible. The military or army reorganization board at Peking is exercising supervision over the viceregal and provincial troops and giving cohesion to them, so that they will be in reality an imperial army. It has issued orders to have turned over to it all provincial arsenals and gun factories, a great step toward military centralization. A recent edict decrees that any official having to do with the purchase of arms and army supplies found guilty of dishonesty or accepting bribes shall be decapitated; and it is said that the frauds heretofore practiced by European armament agents are now almost impossible.

THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE SOLDIER MADE EQUAL TO THAT OF THE CIVILIAN

The low grade of the military service has been noticed. In the past a marked difference has existed between the civil and military officers of the government. A civil mandarin, for instance, is exempt from corporal punishment in case of misdemeanors, while a military officer for such offenses can be sentenced to a number of blows with the bamboo. For these reasons Chinese parents have preferred to have their sons study for the literary degree, which opened to them civil official rank and title. In the reorganization of the official grades now going on, these distinctions are to be done away and the military officers to be placed on a status of equality with the civil mandarins.

Military officers as a class have been illiterate and many of them have risen from the ranks. These defects, it is expected, will in some measure be remedied by the general system of education of which I have spoken. But there have already been established military and naval schools in a number of provinces, and I learn from the report of Secretary Williams to the Department of State that it is proposed to establish in every province two grades of military and naval schools, and in Peking an imperial military college and also a naval college, students for which will be supplied from the provincial schools just named. In addition, the imperial board of education, with a view to inspiring in the rising generation a patriotic and martial spirit, has required military drill in all the government primary and grammar schools and the wearing of a uniform by all the students.

It must be admitted that the lesson, to which I have alluded, which the nations of our western civilization have with such severity taught the Chinese, that they can only enforce respect, protect their interests, and regain and maintain their sovereignty by force of arms, is in a fair way of being put into practical operation. If they can maintain their existence as a consolidated empire for a single generation longer, as they have for thousands of years, until their army is fully trained, equipped, and made efficient for war, and a navy commensurate with this imperial army built and put in hostile array, well may the nations which have despoiled them of their territory and treated their race with contumely and ostracism pray that they may return to the teachings of their great philosopher, who enjoined his followers to practice the spirit of the Golden Rule.

MANY RAILROADS BEING BUILT UNDER CHINESE INITIATION

Turning to a more agreeable phase of Chinese progress and reforms, the construction of railroads attracts our attention. When they were first sought to be introduced they met with intense opposition from the people, which forced the imperial government to temporize with the matter. An element of superstition entered into the question, and the disturbance of the ancestral tombs by the construction of the roads lent sympathy to the opposition. But business considerations also influenced the popular hostility. The Grand Canal, which was at the date of its construction the greatest commercial work ever undertaken, has of late years fallen much out of repair; but it still affords employment to a vast amount of capital and hundreds of thou-

sands of people. It was feared with much reason that the introduction of railroads would leave this capital and labor without employment.

But the construction of the railway lines from Peking to Tientsin and the Manchurian frontier and from Peking to Hankow has demonstrated their utility and that they will be profitable when wisely planned. The old opposition has given way, and the entire country seems seized with a strong desire to build railroads. Mr Hayes, the American consul at Nanking, in a report made in September last, states that 9,000 miles of such roads are in operation or under construction. He gives a detailed list of more than a score of railroads "which have been or are being built by Chinese initiative and under entire Chinese control."

Foreign interests in and out of China insist that the Chinese are not competent, without foreign direction and assistance, to build or operate railroads, and that neither native nor foreign capital in sufficient amounts will be forthcoming for such enterprises under native control. It is probable that such enterprises will encounter serious disappointments and undergo costly experiences, and that it would be better to have a participation of foreign skill and capital; but, if the Chinese desire and are ready to enter upon such experiments, I see no reason why they should not be allowed to do so, nor why such action on their part should be construed into a spirit of hostility to foreigners. It may be added that a race which constructed the Great Wall and the Grand Canal, two of the greatest engineering achievements of all time, should naturally have a laudable ambition to build their own railroads.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERS AND ALL RAILWAY OPERATORS ARE CHINAMEN

An intelligent American observer, who has spent the last few years in China and traveled extensively in the country, says: "I think it probable that during the next twenty years more miles of railway will be built in China than in any other part of the world; and while foreigners may assist in furnishing the capital, the prime movers will be the Chinese themselves, who will insist, as far as they are able, upon retaining substantial control." He adds, that the "Chinese are reaching the point where they can dispense with foreigners in operating their railroads. The entire northern division of the Imperial Railway of China had not, the last time I traveled over it, a single white employee."* Apropos of the ability of Chinese engineers for railroad construction, Mr Haynes, already cited, reports that the most difficult bridge, 2,300 feet long, on this line of 526 miles was built by a Chinese civil engineer, who graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

A number of concessions have been granted to foreigners for lines of railroads, and they are now under construction, notwithstanding the desire of the natives to monopolize this class of improvements. The effect of the operation of all these lines of public traffic will be to stimulate trade, both domestic and foreign, make the inhabitants by intercommunication more intelligent and homogeneous, and greatly consolidate the Empire by bringing its remoter sections in rapid contact with the central government.

A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT PLANNED

The reform movement in China which is attracting most attention abroad is the action of the imperial government looking toward the granting of a constitution and a representative assembly, or parliament. The step taken is very notable, but not so radical a departure from the existing regime as might be supposed. The government of China is an autocracy in form, but in few of the countries of the world is the spirit of democracy so manifest and potent. This has had a marked illustration in the changes which

*The New Far East, by Thomas F. Millard, 1906.

have taken place in the last few months in a number of the most important provinces, where at the popular demand viceroys have been removed and more acceptable ones appointed. In no other nation are the public offices so freely opened to the masses, as under the system of competitive examinations the lowest subject, with a few class exceptions, may fit himself for and obtain the highest office. There is no hereditary nobility, except of the imperial family. The Emperor recognizes himself and is recognized by his subjects as being controlled by a higher law than his own will. For many centuries the country has been governed by boards or departments at the capital, somewhat complicated, but similar in their operation to most of the political systems of the western nations. In more than one instance where the Emperor has gone contrary to the views of his advisers and the popular will he has been deposed and a new occupant of the throne chosen, who was more subservient to the established institutions of the Empire. The teachings of Confucius and Mencius, the highest Chinese authorities in governmental and social matters, were based upon the principle of securing the common good of all; hence a constitutional form of government might well be the legitimate offspring of the ancient order in China, independent of any aid rendered by modern civilization.

It is quite compatible, therefore, with the existing principles of government to take steps toward a more formal constitutional regime. But, as becomes a conservative people, these steps are being taken with deliberation. In the first place, an imperial edict was issued July 16 of last year, after many councils as to the reforms most needed by the country, appointing two commissions, composed of prominent and intelligent officials, to visit the United States and Europe. The edict stated that "the court has repeatedly announced in plain speech that earnest efforts must be made to introduce reforms, * * * with the view to raise China from her present condition of weakness and deliver her from the dangers into which she has fallen;" and the commissioners were commanded "to inquire into the methods of the various foreign governments, in the hope that we may be thus able to select and adopt the best."

We well remember the favorable impression made by the commissioners who recently visited Washington and other cities of the United States. The two traveling commissions (as they were called), having completed their investigations, returned to Peking in August last, had several personal audiences of the Emperor and Empress Dowager, and submitted their reports in writing, recommending the establishment of a constitutional government. These reports were the subject of earnest cabinet councils, in which the conservative element of the Court made determined efforts to defeat the constitutional plan, but they finally failed. It appears that Yuan Shih-kai, who was summoned to the capital from Tientsin, and Tuan Fang, the most efficient member of the traveling commissions, were the influential advocates of the constitution, and it is said won over the support of a large majority of the cabinet, as well as the Emperor and Empress Dowager.

A NOTABLE EDICT

As a result, the imperial edict was issued September 1 last, announcing the decision of the throne to grant and "adopt a constitutional system in which the supreme authority shall be vested in the crown, but all questions of government shall be considered by a popular assembly." The edict is a notable document, and I regret that I do not have the time to read it in full. It sustains the decision to adopt a constitution by citing the deplorable condition of the country which threatens danger and disaster, which can only be avoided "by broadening our knowledge, improving our laws, and keeping in the path of progress." However, before creating a constitution and a representative assembly, it says

several things must be accomplished. The existing official organization must be reformed and purified; education must be extended; the finances put in order; the military system improved, and the gentry and people made to understand political affairs. In a few years, when the system shall have been studied and outlined, a form of constitution will be announced and the date for putting it in operation fixed.

FOREIGN CRITICISM

It is somewhat discouraging to note that this great proclamation, although recognized as a memorable document, has met with severe criticism from foreign sources. The most intelligent and fair-minded of these critics to which I have access is the Shanghai *News*,* an English daily, which has devoted to it a number of recent editorials. Its chief criticism is that no time is fixed for announcing the constitution or putting the representative assembly in operation; that the preliminary work marked out may require ten or twelve years, or even a lifetime, and thus the promised reform be postponed indefinitely, as, it is alleged, the history of China for the last half a century has been largely a record of broken promises. It recognizes that it is a great ambition of a monarch to be the ruler of three hundred millions of united and prosperous people; that the granting of a constitution and parliament would increase their patriotic pride, while making them more serviceable to the throne, and if sincerely issued and carried out it would be the acme of shrewd statesmanship, but that the cry for reform seems to come from those who will not reform themselves.

The answer to the first part of this criticism may be found in the conduct of Japan. In the year 1869 the Mikado took what is termed the "charter oath," promising the give the people of Japan a deliberative assembly, and in the meantime to study the institutions of other countries; but not until 1881, twelve years later, did he fix definitely the period when the promised parliament would be convened, which was to be ten years later still, before which latter date he gave assurance that the constitution would be promulgated, and he warned his people that they should "hasten slowly toward constitutional and representative government." It is too true that very many of the ruling party in China who are opposed to the reforms inaugurated are unworthy and corrupt officials; but this fact is recognized in the edict from the throne and a determination is expressed to make an earnest effort to improve the methods and morals of public administration; and the critics must admit that the men who are directing the constitutional movement, such as Chang Chih-tung, Yuan Shi-kai, Tuan Fang, and Tang Shao-yi, are serious-minded men, and will compare favorably with the statesmen of other lands for uprightness and personal integrity.

Against them there cannot be brought the criticism that the reform comes from those who will not reform themselves. There is no doubt, however, that the most serious opposition to the constitution comes from the bureaucracy. This opposition among the high officials at Peking has been so strong that Prince Tsai Tseh, the head of the traveling commissions, felt it necessary a few weeks ago to address another memorial to the throne, in which he argues that "constitutional government is beneficial both to the state and the people, but most unbeneficial to the official classes." And he proceeds to condemn the lack of loyalty on the part of high dignitaries, who put their personal advancement before their duty to the country, and he warns their majesties against arguments springing from such selfish motives. After giving very forcible reasons in favor of a constitution, he closes with this significant statement: "If the throne does not grant the people their rightful privileges when they qualify themselves to enjoy them, they will un-

*Acknowledgment is made of indebtedness to the Shanghai *News* for many of the facts stated in this paper.

doubtedly try to claim them through illegitimate channels."

The criticism most strongly emphasized against the practicability of a centralized representative government is the present independent character of the viceroys and governors of provinces, who will be found unwilling to surrender their power. But it is to be remembered that these officials are not hereditary rulers like the Japanese daimios, but are appointed and removed at will by the imperial government, and the rule is that no one shall be appointed to a province of which he is a native or in which he has local attachments. If the viceroys are found to be resisting the policy of a constitutional regime, they may be removed and others more in harmony with the new policy appointed in their places.

WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE

Let us turn from the foreign critics and see how the Chinese people have received the promised constitution. It is too early for reports from the interior provinces, but we have news from many of the great cities and centers of population. At Tientsin, Hankow, Nanking, Shanghai, Canton, and a number of other places a general holiday was declared, and the guilds, societies, and especially the schools and educational associations, united in processions and mass meetings, with patriotic addresses, and thanks telegraphed to the government at Peking, expressing their hearty appreciation of the act. It may be of interest to notice more in detail the action of the people of Canton, the most populous and wealthy city of the Empire, the farthest removed from the capital, and where it has been understood revolts and the anti-dynastic spirit are most rampant. The report states that a general holiday was arranged, business was suspended, and "the celebration called forth the loudest acclamations of rejoicing." The chamber of commerce took the lead, and was supported by the various guilds and societies. The shops and houses were gayly decorated, processions paraded the streets, with bands of music and fireworks, and the guild houses and public halls were crowded with people, who made their obeisances before the imperial tablets, bearing the names of the Emperor and Empress Dowager, as a mark of gratitude for the gracious acts of their majesties in proposing a constitutional government for the Empire.

Afterwards the crowds listened to patriotic songs from the students of the public schools and to addresses from prominent persons. In these the hearers were exhorted to use their best endeavors and influence toward the spread of modern education, without which the country never could understand the meaning of constitutional government and the responsibility therefrom which rested upon all, male and female; and they were warned that impatience and haste in trying to bring about such government would only ruin the hopes of those who were working for the welfare of the country. Telegrams were also sent to Peking, addressed to the princes and high ministers in charge of the reform measures, congratulating them on their important labors and asking them to convey to their imperial majesties the assurances of their most loyal devotion. It is reported from Peking that their majesties have manifested great pleasure in reading the accounts of these celebrations held in the principal cities of the Empire. With such a spirit animating the people, the editor of the foreign journal may well characterize the step as the acme of wise statesmanship.

THE OPIUM CRUSADE

The imperial government, not content with undertaking the important reforms which I have noticed in education, jurisprudence, industries, and politics, has also grappled with the great moral vice of its people—the opium habit. It has within the past hundred years become the crying social evil of the country, and it is a gigantic struggle which has been inaugurated for its eradication. No one who has not passed through the interior

of the country can appreciate the magnitude of the problem. It is said that nearly every family has felt the clutch of this monster vice, and it is known to have impoverished whole communities. It is, however, denied that the drug is largely used by the official class. A prominent mandarin of Peking, speaking from intimate knowledge of the matter, has stated that a very small percentage of high officials in Peking smoke opium, and that of all the viceroys and governors only one is addicted to the habit.

This fact gives greater hope for the enforcement of the edict which was issued on September 20 last, decreeing that steps be taken for the gradual suppression of the cultivation of the poppy and of the use of opium, and that both shall be completely abolished at the expiration of ten years. The edict declares that those addicted to the habit have wasted their time, neglected their trades, ruined their constitutions, and squandered their property; that for this reason China has become poorer and poorer every year; and it exhorts the people to stop the pernicious habit, pluck out the deep-seated cancer, and strive for an era of physical health.

Unfortunately it will be impossible to make the abolition of this devastating vice effective without the consent and cooperation of Great Britain. The result of what is known as the "Opium war" of 1840 secured the privilege to the British East India Company and their successor, the present government of India, to import opium into China. Frequent efforts have been made by China to have this privilege abolished, but it is a great source of profit to India, and the British government has steadily refused its consent. It is claimed that, as the poppy is much more largely produced in China than in India, so long as that is permitted in China it is a legitimate trade for India.

But there is a better prospect now than ever before to reach some agreement between the two countries. Mr John Morley, the secretary of state for India, a statesman of liberal and humane views, has announced in Parliament that the British government will go to the length of a financial sacrifice to assist China in any serious attempt to restrict the use of opium. Dr Morrison telegraphs the London *Times* that "every missionary in China, of whatever nationality, and the overwhelming mass of disinterested public opinion, both official and unofficial [British] will rejoice when the British connection with the traffic wholly ceases." The bishop of Hongkong is active in enlisting the coöperation of the British authorities. He asserts that twice the House of Commons has affirmed that this connection with the Indo-Chinese trade was wholly indefensible, and that the trade increased incalculably the misery of millions of their fellow-men and tended to the deterioration of a noble race.

It is a source of great gratification to state that the government of the United States is not only free from any connection with the trade, but that American citizens have from our earliest diplomatic connection with China been forbidden to engage in it. Both by treaty and diplomatic action, our influence has been thrown against it.

It is a stupendous undertaking on the part of the authorities to suppress this vice, which has taken such a strong hold upon the people. It may be compared to the ceaseless warfare that is being carried on in this country against intemperance. Among the first measures of the government is the prohibition of the use of opium in the new army and in the public schools and colleges, and instruction as to its evil effects. A late press telegram from Peking states that several officers of the old Manchu Banner Corps have been cashiered for smoking opium, that the officials in all the yamens, or government offices, at Peking have been ordered to break themselves of the habit within six months, and that an effort will be made to apply a similar rule to officials under sixty years of age throughout the Empire, on pain of dismissal from the service.

The people also seem to be responding in some measure to the appeals of the authorities by organizing anti-opium societies. The methods of the one in Canton will indicate the character of their efforts. The members of this society pledge themselves not to use opium, and to do all in their power to free others from its deadly grasp. They provide doctors and medicines to those making an effort to abandon the vice. They also organize street parades, in which men are dressed as confirmed opium sots, with most ragged and disreputable garments and their faces painted an ashy paleness familiar among confirmed smokers, thus exhibiting to the spectators "the awful example" of the opium fiend.

REFORMS IN DRESS AND FOOTBINDING

It would seem that the foregoing statement of the reforms undertaken in China would be sufficient to satisfy the demands of the most advanced advocates for its regeneration; but still other reforms are being urged upon the government and people. There are many who favor a change of the dress to the western style and the abolition of the queue by imperial edict. Changes in these matters are already in progress in the army and the public schools, and it is probable that they will be extended, as in Japan, without governmental interference. The abolition of slavery and polygamy is being strongly pressed. Neither of these practices has been widespread, and while from our western standpoint they are blots upon oriental civilization, the government may well be spared the burden of undertaking their abolition till the other important reforms it has in hand are in a more advanced stage of acceptance.

The movement for abandoning the custom of foot-binding is making progress, but it seems the most tenacious practice to be overcome. It has withstood more than one imperial edict, and the vast majority of the society women still cling to it as an evidence of refinement and fashion. The Empress Dowager seems determined upon its destruction, has recently issued a new fulmination against it, and is seeking to bring to bear official ostracism and the influence of the schools.

OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY

The late announcement of Sunday as a legal holiday, when the public offices are to be closed, is not to be construed as a step toward the acceptance of Christianity, but is another evidence of conformity to western practices. Prince Pu Lun, a member of the imperial family, who visited our country two years ago as the Emperor's representative to the St. Louis Exposition, in answer to my inquiry as to what impressed him most in our country, said it was our weekly rest day, as in China they toiled on day after day without cessation. I have been told that one of the reasons for the step taken was that Sunday was a favorite day with western diplomats at Peking to visit the Foreign Office, the day when the officials of that department desired a vacation. Some color is given to that assertion when it is seen from the last volume of the Foreign Relations of the United States that the American minister is asking for an appointment on that day to visit the department on business.

Many parts of the country seem to have a rage for foreign ways and articles. A correspondent from the far-away interior province of Szechwan, on the confines of Tibet, writes: "I notice quite a number of the natives are wearing leather shoes made by local cobblers. What they want is a shoe that will polish and look like the foreigner's. In fact, they want everything to look like the foreigner's. They want hats like they wear in Shanghai; likewise their coats; they try to write with a lead pencil instead of a Chinese pen; they want foreign pictures for their shops. All this is a feeling after something different from their old ways of living. The next generation will want more luxuries than their fathers."

The American observer from whose book just published I have already quoted says: "It is not unusual to see wealthy Chinese going about in their motor cars,

driven by native chauffeurs. I saw the young daughter of a high official riding a bicycle through the street in a foreign concession, attended by a servant on another wheel. * * * Among nationalities none is today more disposed to take up new and improved methods than the Chinese."

CHINA FOR THE CHINESE

And yet during the past year and more the foreign press has been full of complaints that there exists in China a bitter hostility to foreigners, countenanced by the government and encouraged by the more intelligent and influential classes of the population. It is alleged that everywhere throughout the Empire the cry is "China for the Chinese," and that this means the exclusion of foreigners from all concessions and enterprises and from participation in the development of the country. To support these allegations the following, among other recent occurrences, are cited: The compulsory surrender of the Canton-Hankow Railroad concession, the Shanghai riot, the anti-American boycott, and the foreign customs supervision. Let us examine how far the facts sustain these allegations.

Much misinformation has been published respecting the repurchase of the Canton-Hankow Railroad. Only a few weeks ago so reliable a periodical as the New York *Independent* stated that the Chinese government had forced the repurchase in obedience to the demand of the Chinese Nationalists for the cancellation of all foreign concessions. The facts, briefly stated, are that out of special consideration for the United States the Chinese government granted to an American company in 1898 the most valuable franchise in its gift, a concession to build a railroad from Canton to Hankow, a distance with its branches of over 900 miles, through the most densely populated part of the country. As the government desired for political reasons that it should be an exclusively American enterprise, it inserted a provision in the contract that the ownership or control of the company should not be transferred to any other foreigners. After some years spent in vain efforts to raise the necessary capital in New York, the company did what it was expressly forbidden to do, sell a majority of the stock to Belgians, with what was believed to be the backing of China's most feared competitor, Russia. Besides, the representatives of the company by their overbearing conduct had incurred the hostility of the local authorities and people in China. Seven years passed without any serious effort to build the road, as only 32 miles had been constructed, and that merely a branch line. Under these circumstances the government gave notice to the company that it had forfeited its concession by reason of the sale to the Belgians, but that it was prepared to repay all the expenditures of the company. The latter then alleged it had bought back the control from the Belgians; but it was too late to re-establish itself in the confidence of the people of the provinces, and by a friendly arrangement the Government paid to the company three times the amount of its total expenditures and received a surrender of the concession.

There is a concurrence of testimony of American observers on the ground that the company by its bad conduct and unbusinesslike methods had forfeited all consideration. Hon. William E. Curtis, during a recent visit to China, wrote: "The famous American-China Development Company [the Canton-Hankow Railroad Company] has made a wretched mess of its concession and has dragged the honor and credit of American capitalists across about 700 miles of Chinese mud and dust."

Mr McCormick, the agent of the Associated Press during the Russo-Japanese war, just returned from China, in a recent article in the New York *Outlook*, says that the company clearly broke its faith with the Chinese government, and that its conduct, more than any other fact of our intercourse, tended "to destroy American prestige and damaged every American enterprise in China." Mr Millard, a

well-known correspondent, gives in his book an account of the company, fully confirming the other American writers above cited, and concludes: "Thus ignominiously terminated the first important project ever launched under American auspices in China." It may be added that, so far from the Chinese being governed by a spirit of hostility to foreigners in this matter, the present native company, under which the railroad is now being built, is ordering passenger cars and other rolling stock from American manufacturers.

The Shanghai riot of a year ago, which was greatly exaggerated in the press reports and led to the assembling in that port of the war vessels of our western powers, including the United States, grew out of the attempt of the foreign authorities in the settlement to exercise control over a Chinese woman charged with a misdemeanor. A full account of this riot was given by Mr George Kennan, of this city, then in China, in the *Outlook,* in which the Chinese authorities were vindicated. Such was the conclusion of the American Consul General. The British Minister for Foreign Affairs, in discussing the riot in the House of Commons, stated that the Chinese judge was right in the case, and that the attempt of the municipal authorities to exercise jurisdiction was "unfortunately an act that was not warranted by our treaty rights. * * * It shows the danger of encroaching on Chinese jurisdiction in these foreign settlements."

So far as the anti-American boycott is concerned, to vindicate the conduct of the Chinese people there is need only to quote the language of the President of the United States in his message to Congress, in which he says that "in the effort to carry out the policy of excluding Chinese laborers, Chinese coolies, grave injustice and wrong have been done by this nation to the people of China." And he clearly states the cause in this language: "The main factor in producing this boycott has been the resentment felt by the students and business people of China, by all the Chinese leaders, against the harshness of our law toward educated Chinamen of the professional and business classes." The boycott was but the ebullition of the hour, in which the patriotic spirit of resentment of the sedate Oriental boiled over for the time; but the usual friendly feeling for America soon reasserted itself, even before the amendments of the law promised by the President were voted by Congress. I venture the assertion that every fair-minded American citizen applauded the Chinese demonstration of resentment, and his only regret was a feeling of humiliation that his country should be guilty of so flagrant a wrong to a proud but unoffending people.

A great outcry has been raised, especially in British journals, because of the creation during the present year of a new commission of two prominent Chinese officials, called the "Customs Board," because it was supposed that it was the intention to supersede Sir Robert Hart, a British subject, who for forty years and more has so successfully managed the maritime customs. The Chinese Government, however, has given positive assurances that it had no such intention. Sir Robert, who continues at the head of the customs, has issued a circular stating that no change was to be made, and another of the evidences of the Chinese hostility to foreigners is shown to have no substantial foundation.

The cry of "China for the Chinese," which is most heard among the students returned from Japan and other foreign countries, has given rise to the fear abroad that the Empire was on the eve of another uprising against foreigners, such as the Boxer outbreak of 1900. Foreign powers having citizens or interests in China were advised to strengthen their navies in those waters, and it was even said that it was the purpose of our government to reinforce the army in the Philippines, so as to have an available force near by for the expected emergency. But such fears thus far have proved illusory. Notwithstanding the anti-dynastic societies, the spirit of unrest

occasioned by the reform measures, the rice famine, and other disturbing causes, the past year has been more free than usual from public disorders—would it be an invidious comparison to say, less dishonored by riots and lynchings than the United States?

There have been some outbreaks of race hatred, but they have been due in large measure to exceptional and local causes. The Lienchou massacre of the Presbyterian missionaries was a lamentable occurrence; but the missionaries exonerated the authorities from any deliberate negligence or sympathy with the rioters, and full indemnity has been made for the losses. It appears that there still remain some vestiges of the Boxer organization. A correspondent, writing in August last from the interior province of Shensi, in which the Court took refuge when the allied army occupied Peking in 1900, gives an account of the sudden appearance in a small town, the scene of the story, of a band of Boxers. They assumed a threatening attitude, especially toward the foreigners in the town, and the latter were compelled to seek refuge in the yamen or office of the town magistrate. The Boxers followed, demanded food from the magistrate, and also authority to kill the foreigners. By this time the whole town became completely terrorized, the merchants closed their shops, and the people were in a state of panic. After receiving food the Boxers withdrew to a large temple in the town, announcing their intention to kill the foreigners and Christians the next day.

Their plan, however, was frustrated by the opportune arrival of a German lieutenant, on his way from Mongolia to Peking. He infused some backbone into the people at the yamen, and on the following morning he induced a small force, which could muster only twelve rifles in all, to follow him to the Boxers' quarters. In the skirmish which ensued, after a brief parley, eleven Boxers were killed, many others wounded, and the remainder taken prisoners. That put an end to the Boxer troubles in that province. This prompts me to say that if at the opportune moment, not a German lieutenant, but a resolute officer of the law had appeared at Springfield, Ohio, or Atlanta, Georgia, and laid his hands on or, if need be, shot down the hoodlum leaders, our country and our civilization would not have been disgraced a short time ago with the barbarities there perpetrated.

REFORM OF FOREIGNERS

It is true that there does exist in China a certain feeling of resentment against foreigners; but, in view of the spoliation of their territory, the enormous indemnities exacted, and the disposition to establish a foreign monopoly for the exploitation of their industries and mines, it must be admitted that this feeling is not without some justification. Colonel (Chinese) Gordon said forty years ago that the Chinese "have suffered much wrong from foreigners who have preyed on their country." The occurrences since that time have intensified this fact. So, also, the conduct of most foreigners, the missionaries excepted, in their intercourse with the natives has been truthfully described as masterful, high-handed, and generally overbearing.

An interesting discussion of this subject has been going on recently in the Shanghai *News*. A native, who signs himself "A long-gowned Chinaman" and is vouched for by the editor as a cultivated and educated gentleman, has stated the Chinese side of the question so forcibly that I cannot do better than quote some of his views. In his discussion with the editor he writes:

"The movement of what you call the Young China party, erratic perhaps now in many ways, has its root in the intense feelings of the Chinese people that they have not been fairly and justly treated by foreigners. The true aspiration at the bottom of this movement which is claiming China for the Chinese is to ask for a readjustment of our relations with foreigners on a fair and just basis. The one true and principal object which the people of China in their hearts want in

this matter of reform is not so much railways, not new learning, not European luxuries, not European civilization—what the people of China in their hearts want is to bring about the reform of the foreigners in their way of dealing with the Chinese. A sagacious Englishman in Hankow once said to me, 'What fools these people in Shanghai are. Why, if the Chinese really succeed in their reforms, do you think we foreigners in China would have such a d—— good time as we are having now?' In a word, the Chinese people want the foreigners in China to reform by knocking out of their heads the idea that God has created the three hundred odd million Chinese for the British and other nations to trade upon, to make a living out of them. The only way to abate the fever and intensity of feeling against foreigners is to begin the reform in China at both ends, on the foreign side as well as on the Chinese side."

IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITIES

I cannot close this review of the present condition of China without a reference to the improvements going on in some of the principal cities. These are very noticeable in Shanghai, in the new, enlarged, and more attractive public buildings and private residences, the extension and improvement of the streets, and the increased facilities of locomotion and suburban travel. Shanghai is, however, under foreign control, and the improvement, while an indication of growing wealth and commerce, is mainly the development of western enterprise. Of the native cities, Hankow has shown much growth and improvement, but the two cities giving greatest evidence of progress and improvement are Peking and Tientsin.

Few things in civilized life are more repulsive than the interior of a native Chinese city, and this was especially the case with Peking until the past few years. Since the occupation of the allied army, and especially in the last two years, a marvelous transformation has taken place in the capital. The former broad thoroughfares, undrained, unpaved, and reeking with filth, have undergone a wonderful change. In the center there has been constructed a wide macadamized road, with a parking on each side planted with trees, and next to the houses a paved sidewalk is laid with curbing and drain. A system of sewers has been adopted, and the city presents the appearance of having been thoroughly swept and garnished. A uniform police force adds to its city-like appearance. A telephone and electric service has been established, and tramways traverse the principal streets.

The transformation of Tientsin has been even more effective and complete. It received its first impulse under the International Government which was established during the foreign allied occupation, and of which Hon. Charles Denby, Jr., was the secretary and active executive officer. The native municipality, one of the largest in the Empire, has been so changed that an old resident absent for a few years would hardly recognize it. The old wall which surrounded the land side has been entirely removed and replaced with a wide boulevard, paved and planted with trees, and which extends also along the water front, with an electric tramway traversing its whole extent, lined with attractive shops. The former houses, all of one story, of unburnt brick or of thatch and reeds plastered, are giving place to others of larger proportions and of substantial construction in European style, many of two stories, and indicating a degree of comfort which could not have been dreamed of a few years ago. The process of widening the interior streets, tearing down walls, and the construction of more sanitary dwellings, besides improving the general aspect of the city, has also greatly improved its health. The lighting and police arrangements are of a similar character, and it enjoys a blessing possessed by few other of the native

(*Continued on page 709*)

THE GREATEST HUNT IN THE WORLD

By Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore

Foreign Secretary National Geographic Society, Author of "Winter India," "China—the Long-lived Empire," "Jinrikisha Days in Japan," "Java, the Garden of the East," etc.

This is the first of a series of six articles by Miss Scidmore which will be published in early numbers of the National Geographic Magazine. *Each article will describe one of the wonders of the East, and each will be profusely illustrated.*

ALL other hunts and drives, battues, and baggings of big game are insignificant compared to the elephant hunt of the King of Siam. It is an old as well as a picturesque custom and, surviving to the Twentieth Century unchanged in all its important features, is still the delight of the court of Siam, the capital, and all the water-side country around old Ayuthia. It used to be an annual affair, but there have been serious lapses in this reign, owing one time to the King's absence in Europe, again to his little discord with France, and yet again to his ill health. There are forebodings lest the great chase be given up of necessity, as time goes on and enterprising Siam keeps up its irrepressible gait of modernity. Progress and the new agriculture, railway extension and irrigation are turning the jungle into limitless rice plains, and the screech of the locomotive drowns the trumpeting of the wild elephants and scatters them in panic to further jungle country.

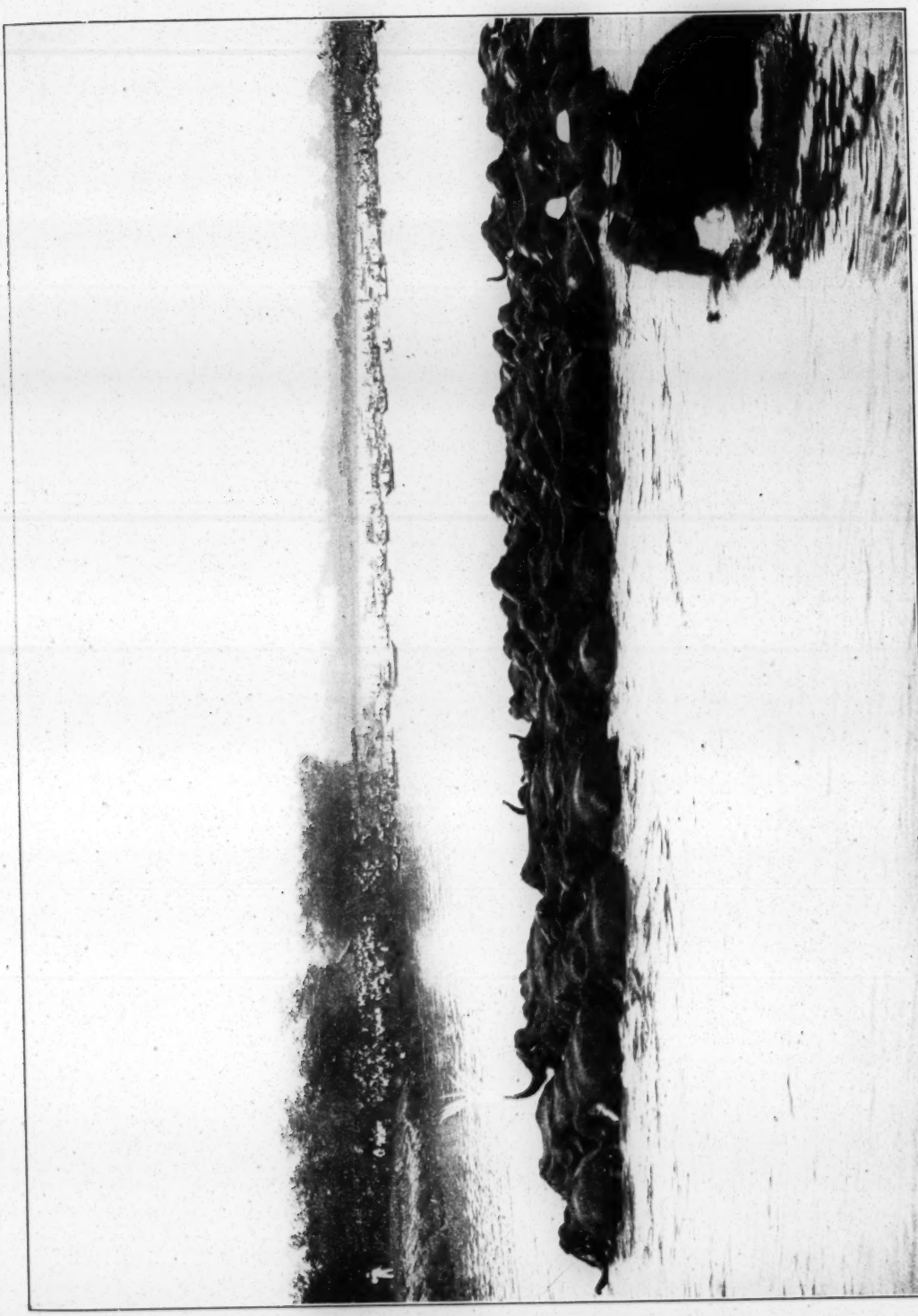
The royal elephant hunt was a more serious affair, perhaps, when that majestic beast was the only means of royal travel on land, and the elephant corps and elephant batteries were the *corps d'élite* and most important branch of the army. London-built landaus on pneumatic tires and automobiles stand in the palace courts, and long-range, quick-firing machine guns of the Japanese pattern are the equipment of the royal artillery. Save for tradition and sentiment, for occasional state splendors and parades, the elephant has no part in Bangkok court life, and the elephant's occupation would be gone were it not for the survey corps, the road-builders, and official traveling in the far-away provinces, and the teak forests and timber yards, where American overhead machinery cannot altogether supplant the intelligent strength of the elephant.

For the great hunts at Ayuthia, site of the abandoned capital, the hunters go out weeks beforehand and beat the jungles for a hundred miles to north and east, and the cordon of tame elephants slowly closes around the wild elephants and drives them in a herd of two and three hundred and more down to the river bank, and across to the King's kraal.

The last hunt of this kind was arranged for the special enjoyment of the Crown Prince after his return from his studies at Oxford and his tour of America, and before he assumed the robes of a Buddhist priest and spent the regulation three months in a monastery, in accordance with old Siamese custom. It was a most successful hunt, and the series of large photographs, which are reproduced here, present the different stages of the hunt and show the herd of two hundred and fifty wild elephants in every pose.

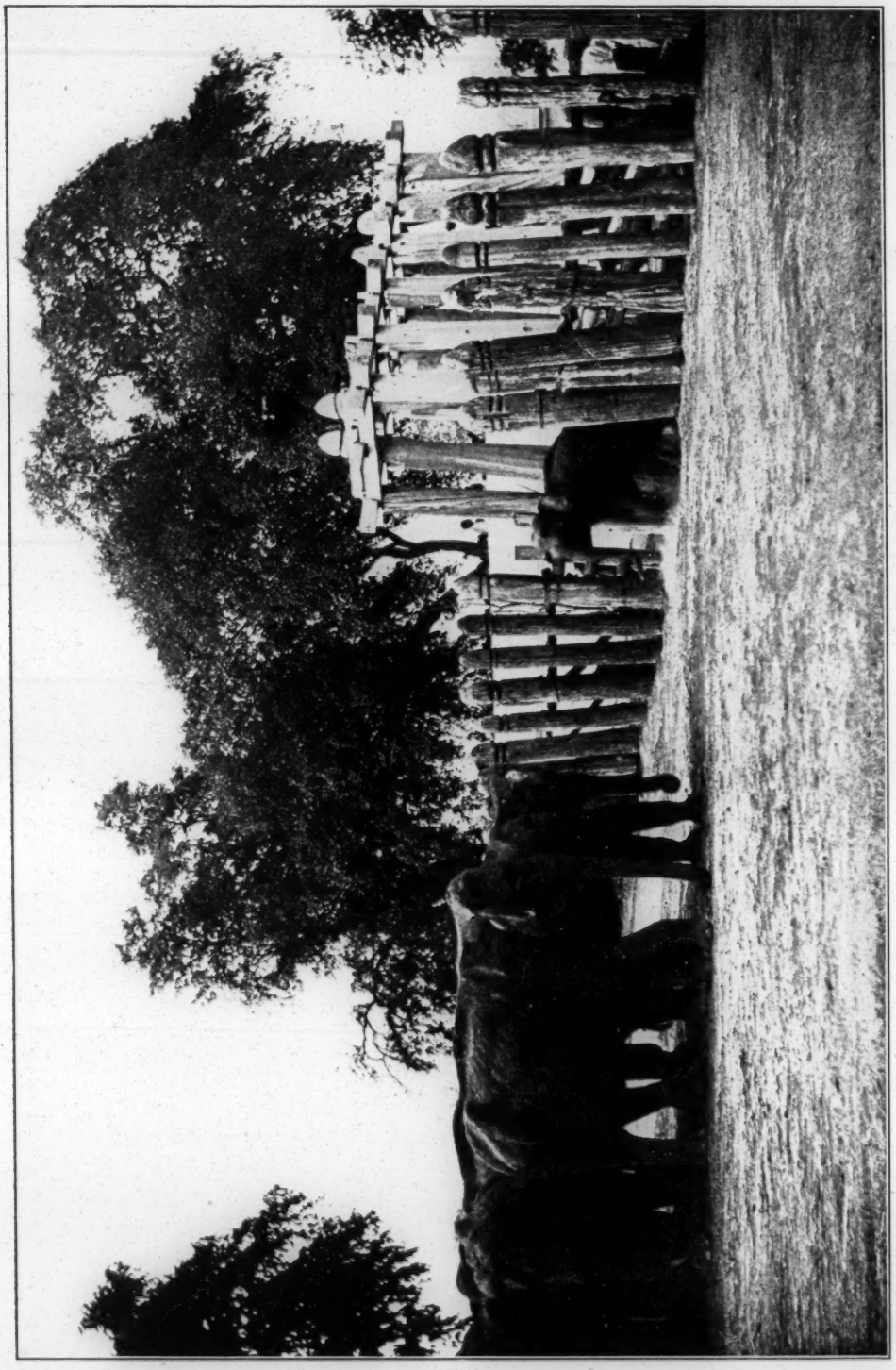
For the hunt week, the court stays in residence at the near-by palace of Bang-pa-in, on the river banks, and the diplomatic and other foreign guests go up to Ayuthia on their house-boats, which luxuriously lodge them during the time. All Bangkok that can find foothold, goes up the forty miles by train, and all the river-

Wild Elephants Led by Tame Ones Crossing the River, advancing nearer and nearer to the Kraal



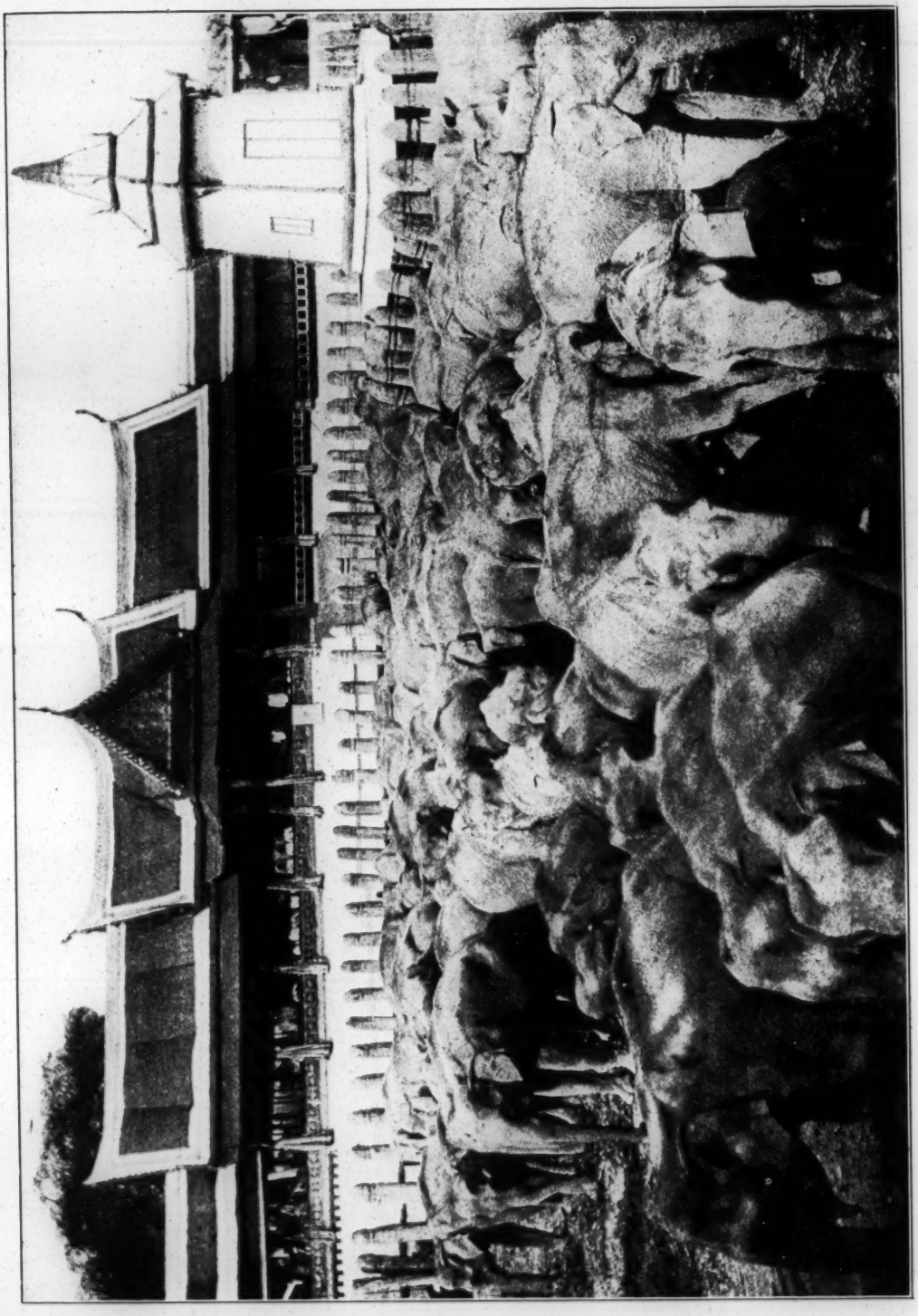
Driving Wild Elephants Across River to Kraal at Ayuthia

Wild Elephants Entering the Kraal

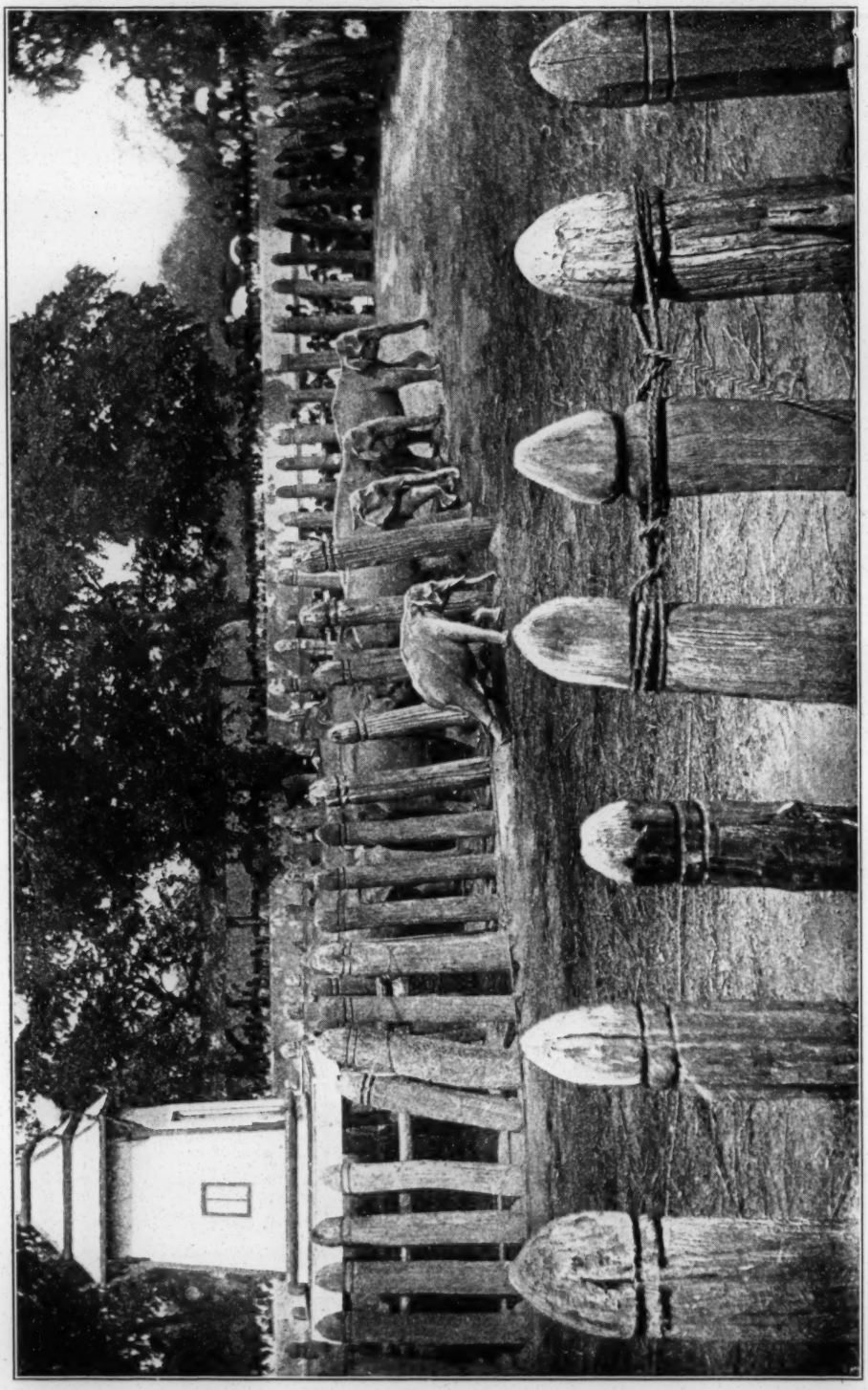


Wild Elephants Trying to Enter the Inner Kraal. Notice the thinness, bones, and patches of fungus on the elephants

Tame Elephants Assisting to Raise the Injured Elephants, which have been trampled over during the scramble into the Kraal

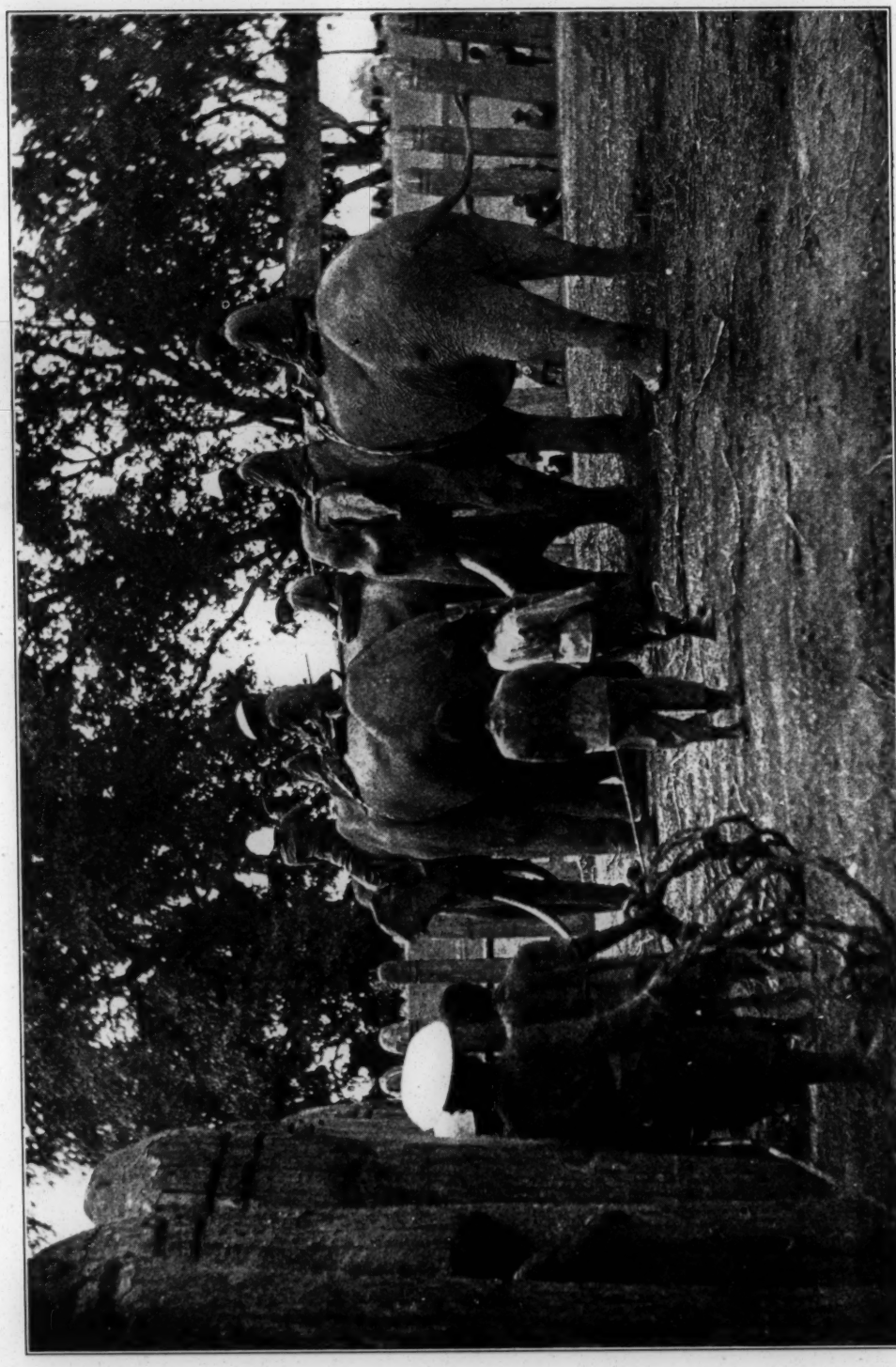


About 250 Wild Elephants at Peace in the Kraal

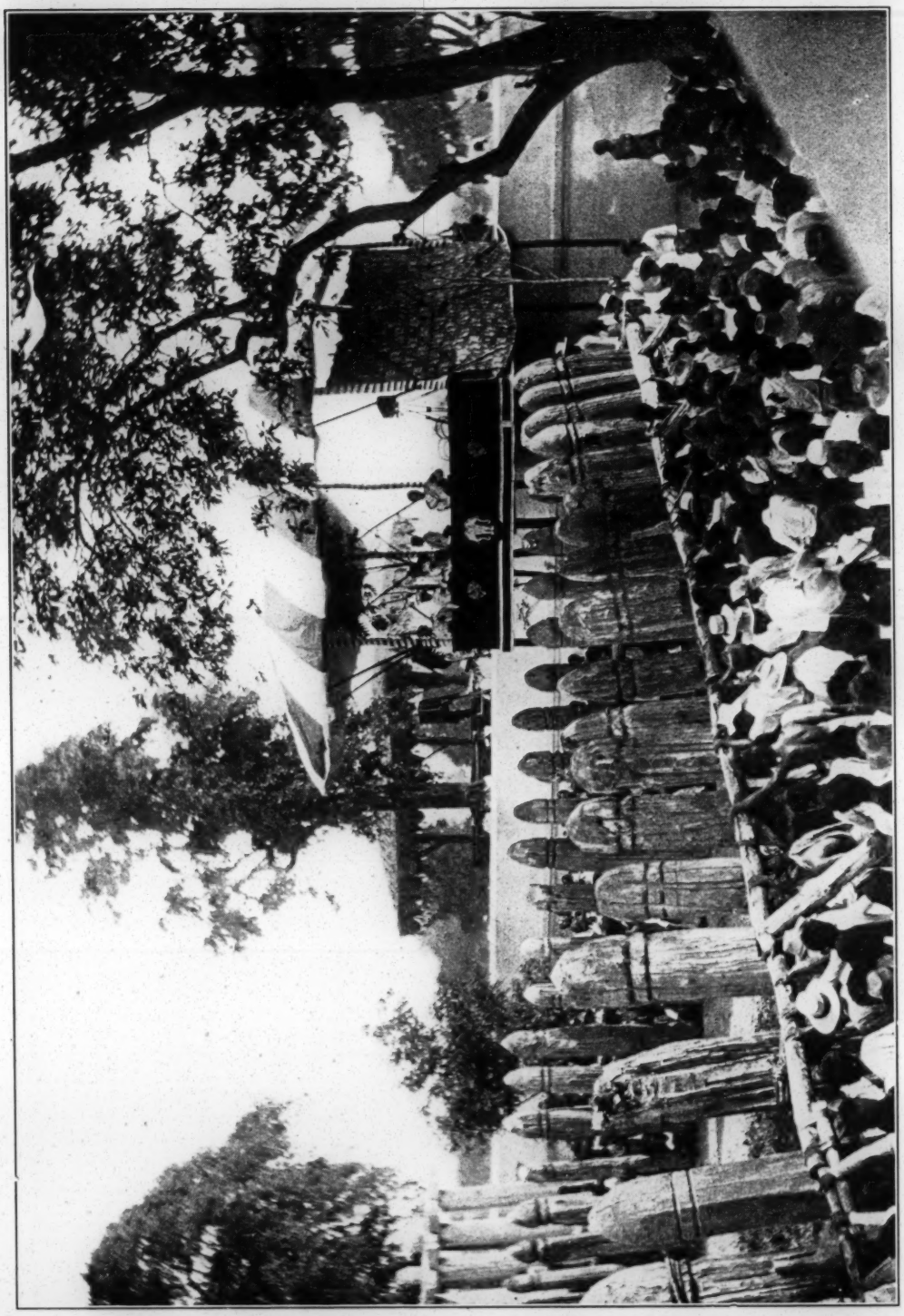


The First Young Tusker Captured and Roped by the Hind Leg

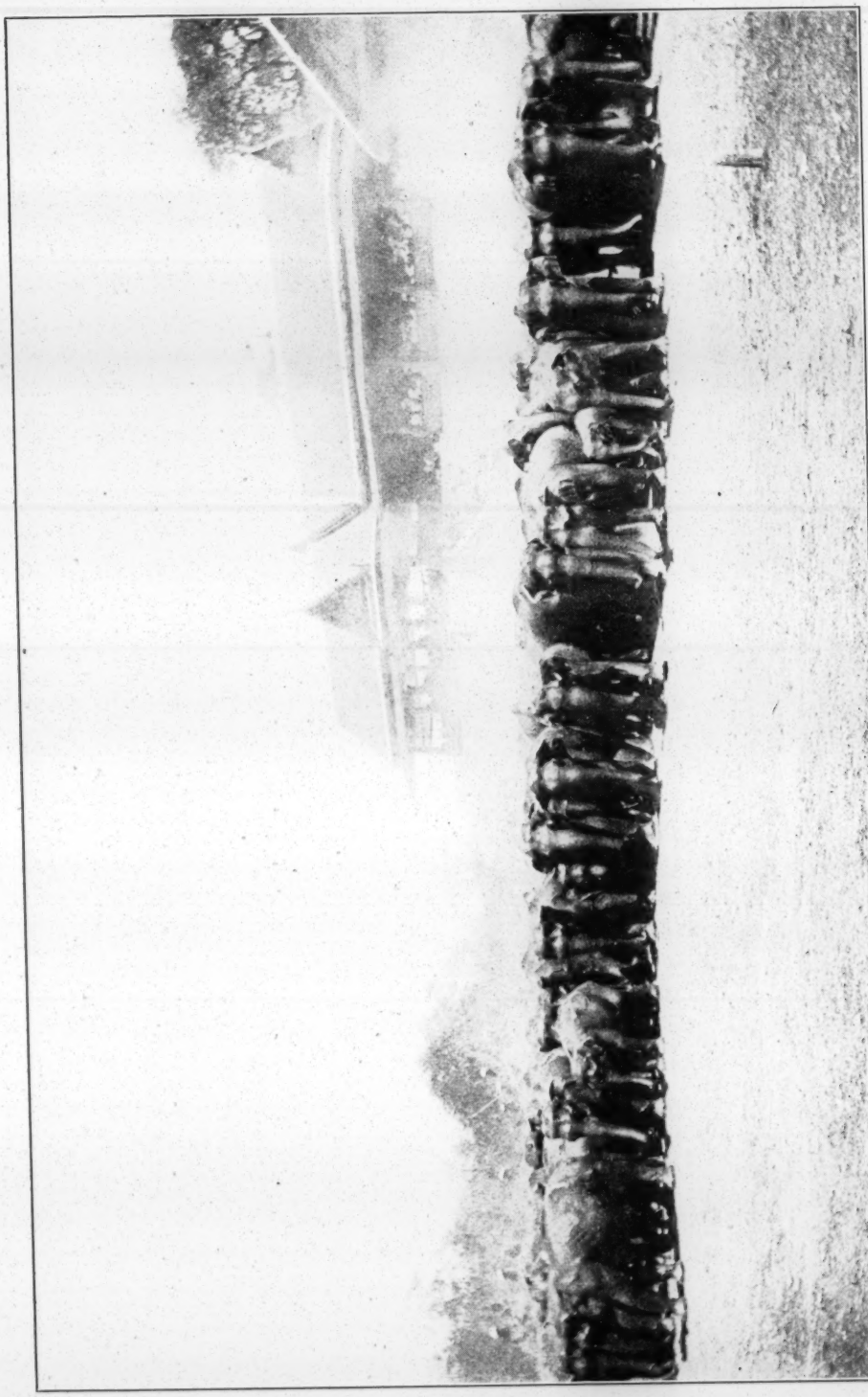
Setting Out to Capture the Elephants



Leading Out a Captured Elephant



His Majesty the King Taking Photos During the Hunt at the Kraal



Preparing to Hunt Outside the Kraal

side and creek-country people paddle their small boats and dug-out canoes to the arm of the Meinam, on which the King's kraal lies, until dead and buried Ayuthia by the waters comes to itself again, and its canals and creeks and water boulevards are as crowded as in the centuries when it was a great capital of Asia.

When the hunters have urged the slow-moving game out from the jungle to the river bank, the sight is worth all Siam's efforts to see. Hundreds of boats hem the herd, at a safe distance, and while the hundreds of elephants splash and roll in the stream, the buzz and shouts of the thousands of people set the elephants' nerves on edge, cause them to trumpet and spout water over their gaunt companions more fiercely than playfully. There is contrast enough between the wild and the tame elephants, standing plump, benign, and imperturbable on guard behind them, waving their trunks easily, flapping an ear now and then. It is for these sleek guardians to lead and steer their jungle cousins across the meadow and into the converging approaches to the kraal. This square enclosure has solid walls six feet thick, with an inner stockade of teak logs twelve feet high, banded together with iron, and set so closely together that there is barely space between for the slimmest Siamese to squeeze through if pursued.

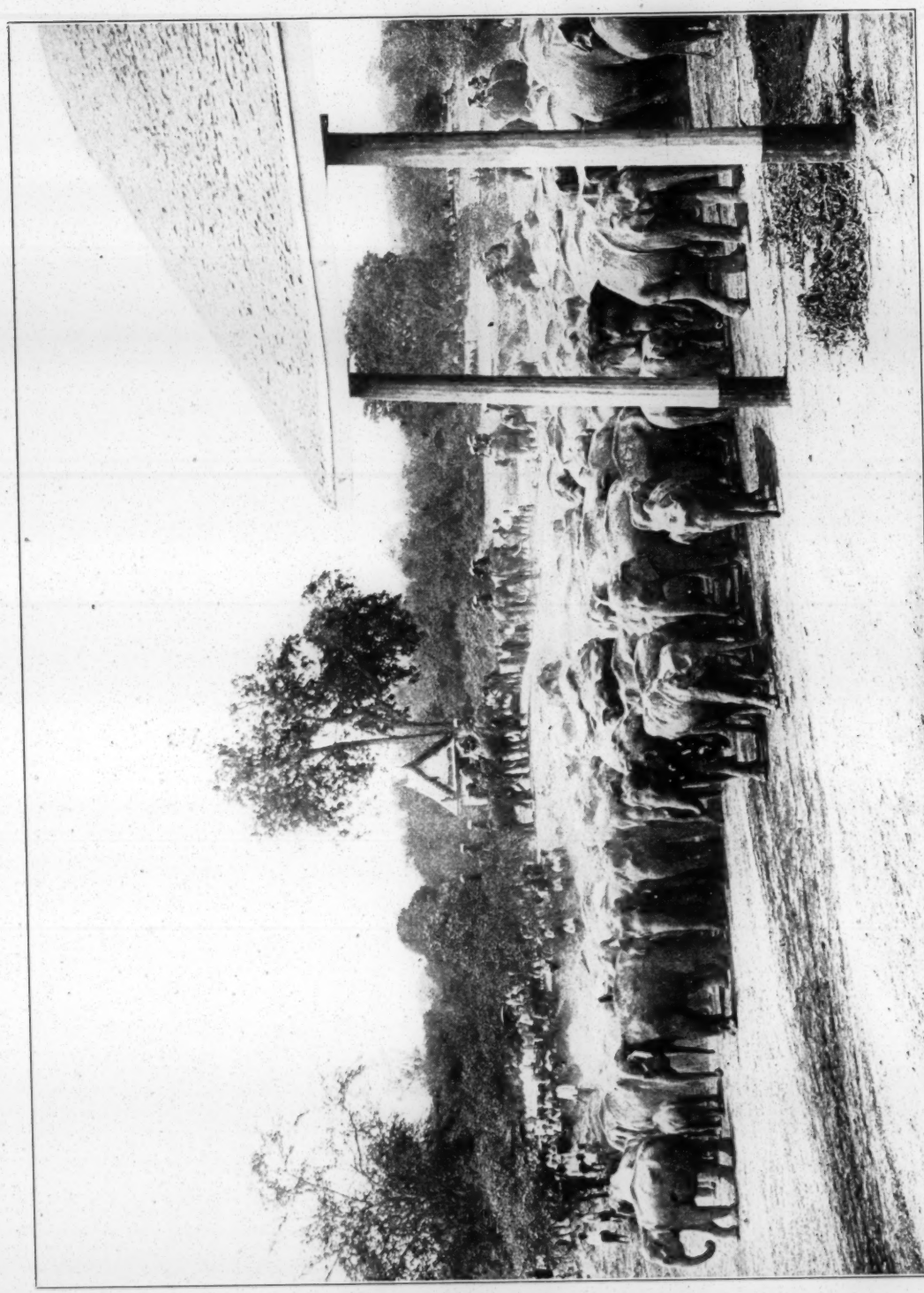
The grand stand, with its royal loge, from which the King and his guests view the scene, is built over the north wall of the kraal; but, as this position of honor and fixed Asiatic convention is a bad one for photographers, the King, who is an enthusiast over the camera, has had a special pavilion constructed at one side, where he maneuvers his instruments, large and small, with the greatest spirit. Nearly every one carries a camera to the elephant hunt, but none snap at royalty, except by request, in so highly civilized a country as Siam. At this last hunt, the King photographed many of the diplomatic house-boats as he sped down the watery reaches, and was delighted when he caught one favorite envoy unawares. "Now you snap me!" cried the King, in amend, and had his boatmen swing his brass-trimmed, teak house-boat around and stop it at the right angle and distance.

As the wild elephants crowd up and into the narrow chute leading to the kraal, trumpeting and shuffling nervously in their fright, the scramble and crush is terrific. After the huge logs have closed the wicket or portcullis, the tame elephants go round as an ambulance corps, assisting bruised and injured elephants to move and rise to their feet and turning the dead ones over out of the way. At every hunt several beasts have their ribs broken and the life crushed out of them in this crush at the gates; for when two frantic elephants try to go through at once, neither one yields or draws back, and the strongest and largest one survives.

After this actual theater panic mildly subsides and the kraal is filled with the wild jungle folk, who trumpet and scream unceasingly, the "elephant doctors" move about on their trained tuskers and note the desirable catches. The chosen ones are lassoed by the foot and made fast to stakes, and their trumpeting and frantic efforts to break loose furnish all the excitement the spectators desire. A few are chosen for the royal stables, but the rest go the practical, commercial way—to the survey camps and the teak forests.

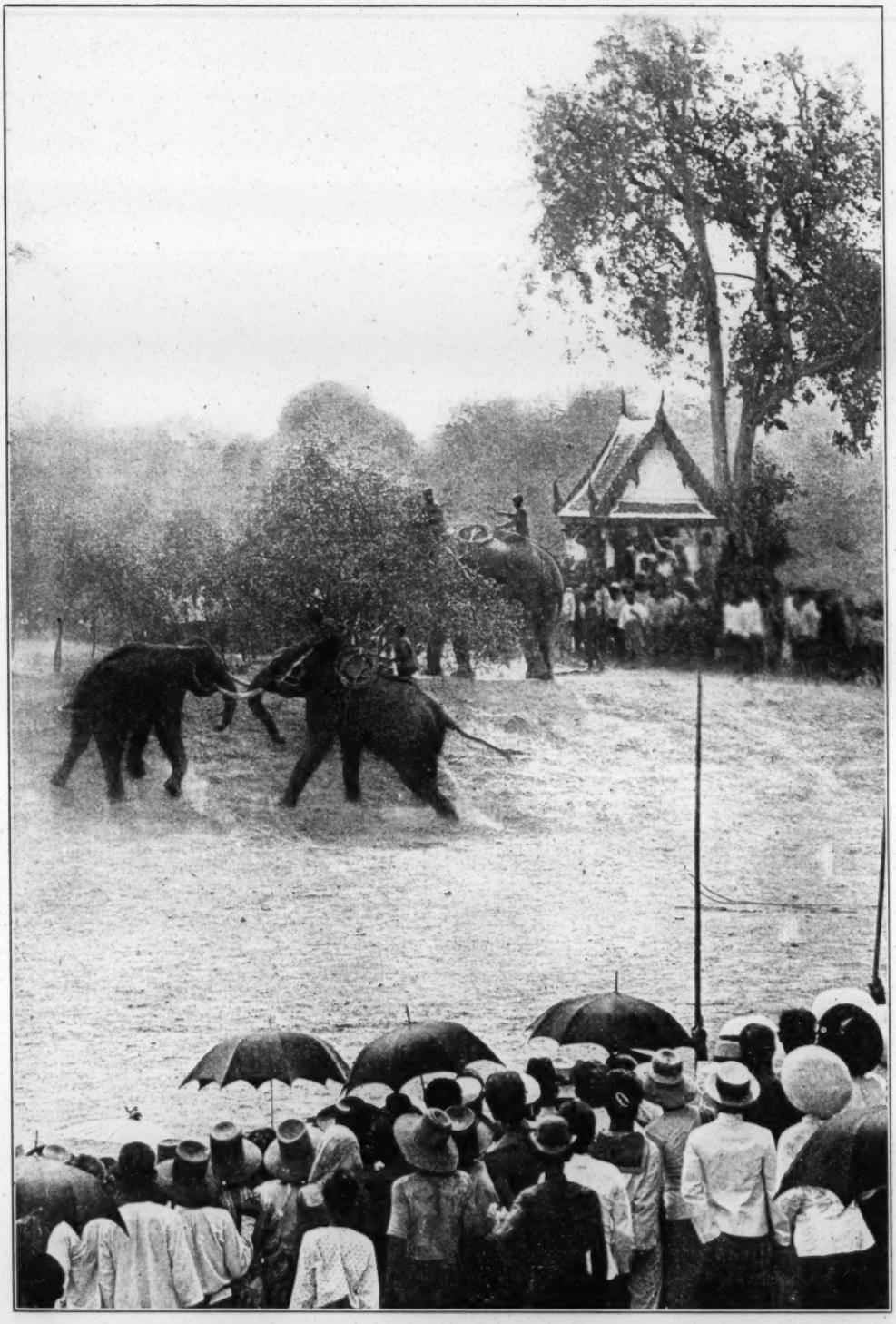
There is great contrast between the sleek, fat, well-fed and well-groomed tame elephants, with their quiet dignity, their benign and easy maneuvers, and the sorry-looking jungle folk—gaunt, weather-worn elephants, with visible ribs and patches of fungus growth—but a few weeks of care and food, a few scrubbings and oilings, transform them, and they soon acquire the urban manner and composure.

Every Siamese is a connoisseur and critic of elephants, and judges unerringly from the wild herd. First, the creature should have a good skin, unscarred, of uniform wrinklings or texture, and as light in color as possible. His toes should have black nails and his tail must

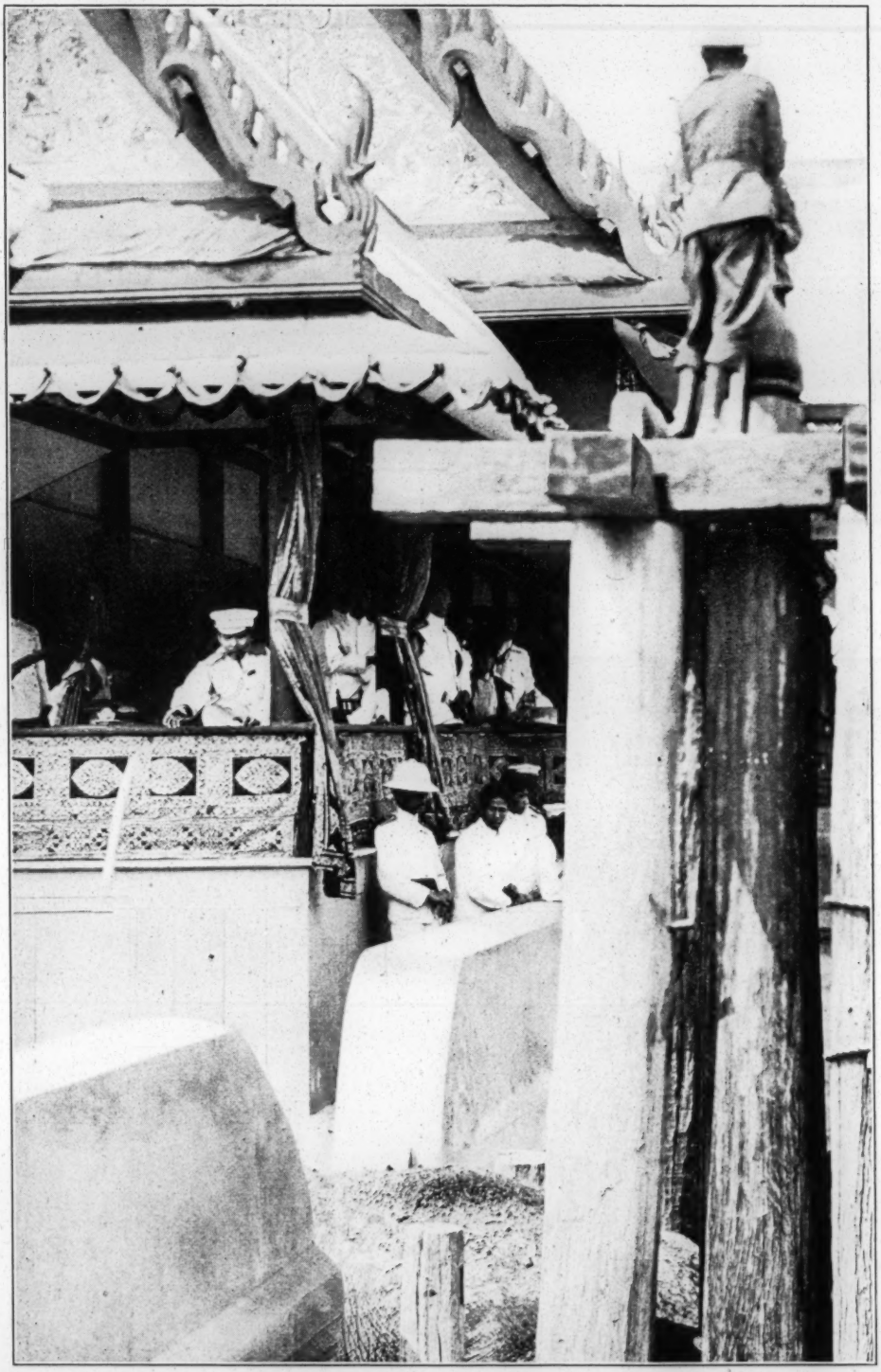


Ayuthia—Elephant Herd

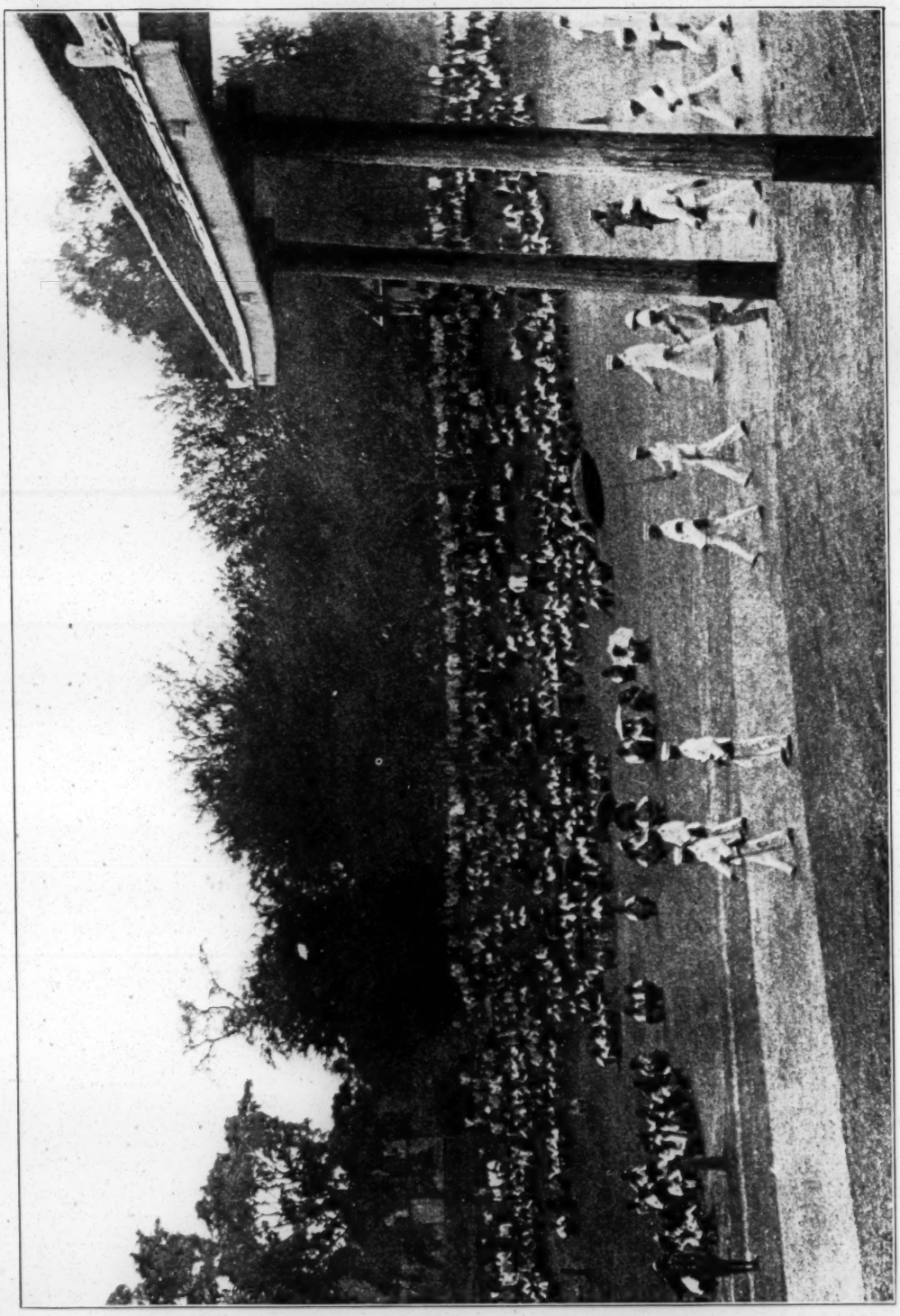
Wild Elephants Taking a Bath in the Stream, surrounded by a cordon of tame elephants



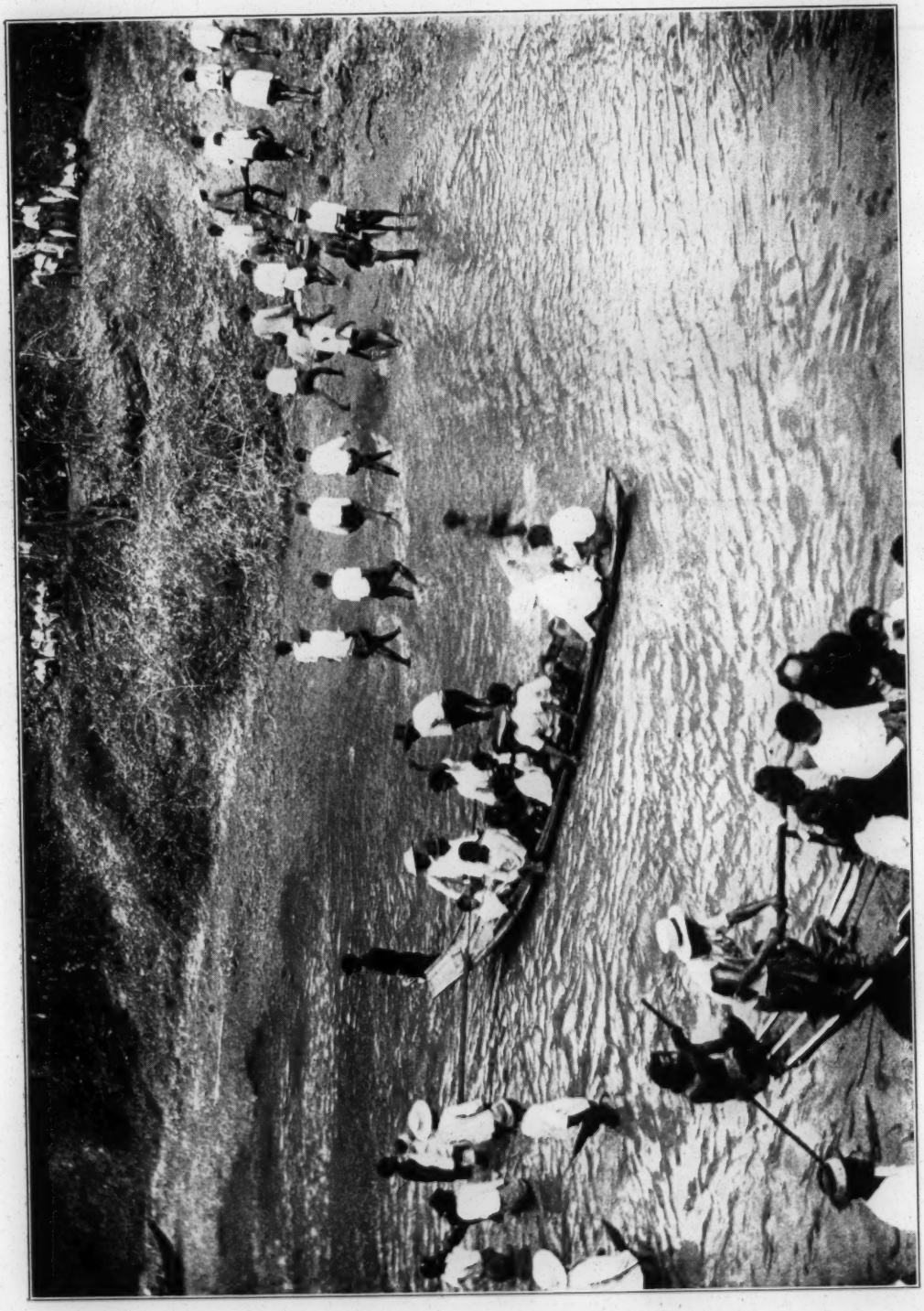
Wild Elephant Broken Away and Fighting Tame Elephant



The King at Corner of Royal Box Choosing an Elephant



The King and Suite Leaving the Kraal After the Hunt



Natives Fording Canal on their Way Home After the Hunt

be absolutely intact. Insignificant as the elephant's tail is, the want of it renders the creature impossible and ridiculous; and many a promising elephant is rejected at the kraal because he has lost his tail in some jungle fight. A steady, even gait is necessary for the elephant to be used in traveling.

When the wild elephants have been chosen and made fast to stakes, they sometimes break loose and wreak their frenzy on the first animal in sight, and battles royal between fierce tuskers often enliven the after-hunt. Then the air rings with the shouts of the people and the Siamese thinks he has had a royal holiday indeed.

When the final choice has been made and the rejected elephants are turned back into the meadow, fed and freed, the King rises and goes to his boat. The King of Siam is one of the most kingly-looking men now gracing a throne—"the handsomest man in Asia," many of the diplomats call him—and in his white military uniform he steps off at a pace that puts the royal umbrella-bearer at a dog-trot to keep up with the strenuous ruler. At sight of the King in his European clothes, under his Asiatic umbrella, the people sink on their heels and remain in pose of reverent humility until he has passed. Then the people, who have enjoyed the holiday to the full, take a fresh betel quid, tuck up their *panungs,* paddle away or wade the stream, and Ayuthia becomes again but a busy water village near some ruined temples in the jungle.

LATIN AMERICA AND COLOMBIA*

By Hon. John Barrett

United States Minister to Colombia

WHILE appreciating greatly the honor of an invitation to open the lecture course of the National Geographic Society and thanking you for giving me that honor, it is necessary to express a word of explanation and excuse. Although I have studied South America in general and Colombia in particular with great care for many years, I honestly feel that there must be many people in this audience who are more familiar with the subject and who could give you a better discussion. For example, I see present here tonight the new Minister of Colombia, Senor Don Enrique Cortes, one of the most distinguished men of that country, who could entertain you with a more accurate description of his wonderful republic than it is possible for me to do.

Inasmuch as your course includes other addresses on South America, such as those of my colleague, Mr Lee, Minister to Ecuador, on that country; Dr Calderon, Minister of Bolivia, about his republic, and Mr Johnson, concerning the Panama Canal, it has seemed fitting that, in the first part of my talk tonight, I should take up some general references to all Latin America, and more particularly because South America has come so prominently before us on account of the remarkable visit of Secretary Root to the capitals of that part of the world.

THE VISIT OF SECRETARY ROOT

Too much emphasis cannot be laid upon the character and significance of Mr Root's tour of South America. It has not been fully appreciated in the United States. The natural modesty of the Secretary of State has kept him from describing the cordiality of the treatment he received at the hands of the South

* An address before the National Geographic Society, November 9, 1906.

Mr John Barrett | Archbishop of Cartagena | Mr Root | General Alfredo Vasquez-Cobo, Minister of Foreign Affairs | Governor Passos of Cartagena

Secretary of State Root and the Committee of Reception at Cartagena, Colombia, September 24, 1906

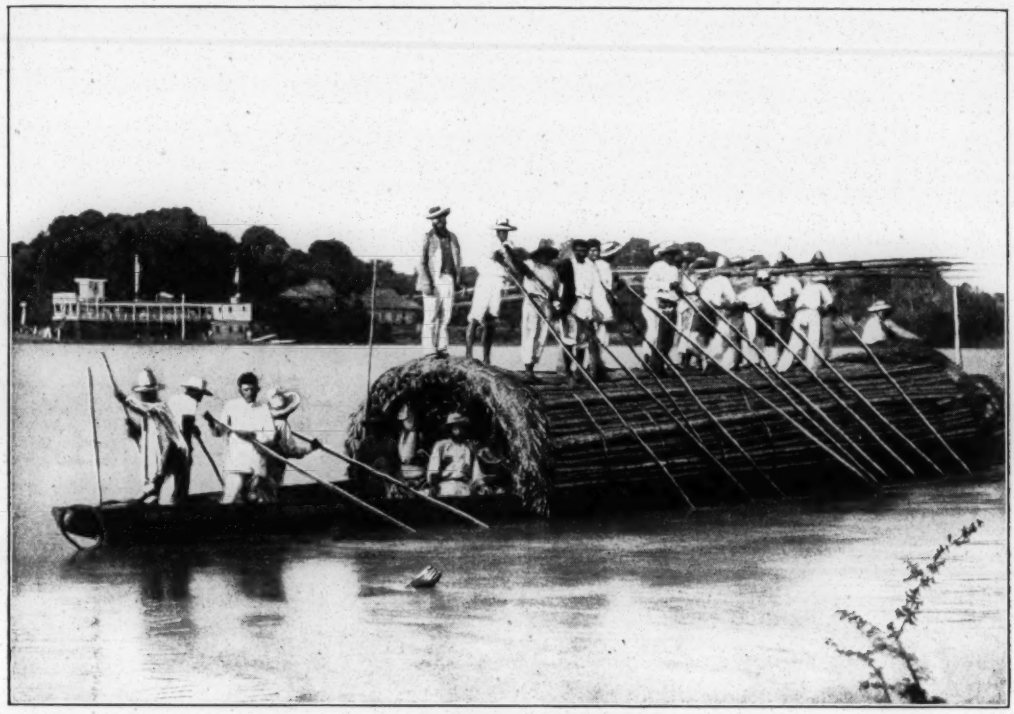
Americans. The press of the United States, while following Mr Root's trip, failed to catch the spirit and greatness of the reception, as was plainly shown by the South American press. We of North America should be profoundly grateful to all South America for the way it received Mr Root. It was a splendid compliment to us, which we have failed to reciprocate in any expression of approbation. Many of you remember the honors showered upon Admiral Dewey when he arrived in this country after his Philippine achievements. It is no exaggeration to state that Mr Root was greeted with a Dewey reception in every capital of South America which he visited. There was no lack of real enthusiasm in the cheers and plaudits of the throngs that bade him welcome. Those of us who have lived in South America know the difference between a reception that is heart-felt and one that is perfunctory. In no place was the reception of our Secretary of State perfunctory.

In each capital and city where he was the guest he was given every attention possible. Had he been the President of the United States or a European monarch, more could not have been done for him. The South Americans were grateful, and wished to show their gratitude, because we sent to them one of our greatest men. They appreciated the fact that he is the premier of our cabinet; that he is regarded as one of our ablest lawyers as well as being a high-class and distinguished politician, and that he represents the intellectual as well as the material side of our progress. In short, they looked upon him as the best we could send, as an ambassador of good will, next to the President himself. Heretofore every South American country had been visited by princes and distinguished statesmen of different European countries, but the United States, in the passing of years, had seemed to neglect South America, as if it were not worthy of the recognition which Europe had given it. When, therefore, the United States, through the sagacity of President Roosevelt, arose to the occasion and sent one of its foremost statesmen, South America returned the compliment with a reception unsurpassed in the history of the Western Hemisphere. Now it behooves the United States to take advantage of what Mr Root has done by fostering in every way a movement throughout our country for greater intercourse and acquaintance with Latin America, from Mexico to Argentina.

A LATIN-AMERICAN MOVEMENT NEEDED

The time is at hand that calls for what might be termed a widespread Latin-American movement in the United States. The commercial and economic possibilities and social conditions and progress of our southern neighbors invite our immediate and particular attention. To say that it may be "now or never" with North American prestige and trade in Central and South America is not a statement of an alarmist or pessimist. It is a simple and logical conclusion drawn from a thorough study of the actual situation.

There never was a period in the history of the relations of the United States with her sister American republics that afforded such combined opportunity and necessity as the present for the development not only of our moral influence, but of our commercial interests. On the other hand, there never was a time when European nations and business interests put forth such efforts as they are now legitimately exerting to increase their own prestige and trade in South America. Although the situation should be one of closest rivalry, where the United States can and ought to win, if it does not give Europe too long a start, the advantage now is decidedly with the latter. There is no gainsaying the fact that Latin America today is strongly inclined to be more sympathetic, in its actual likes and dislikes, with the old world than with the United States, because of plain reasons of race, language, and association.



Hand Propelled Freight Boat for Shallow Tributaries of Magdalena—Large river steamer in background

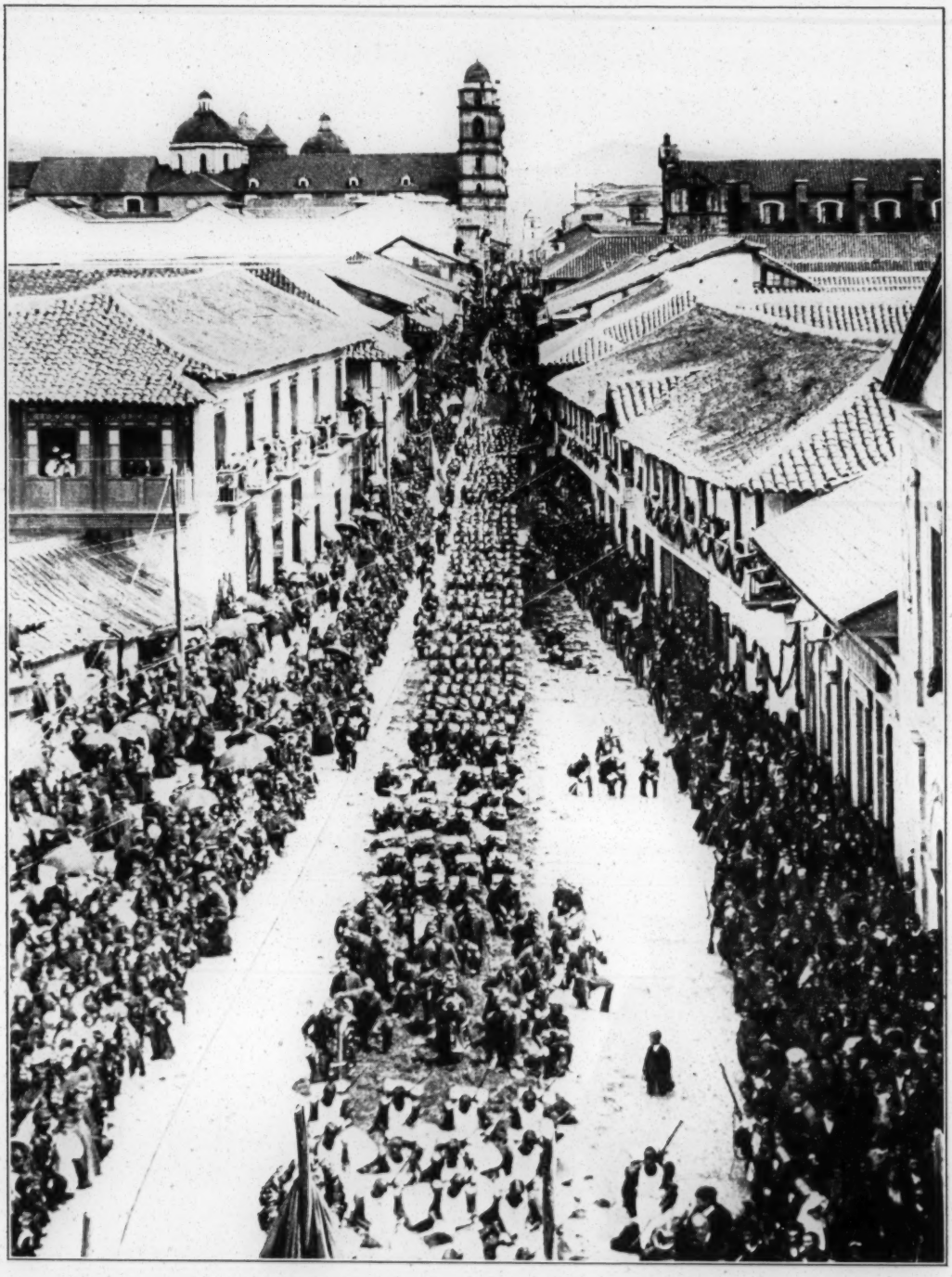
LATIN AMERICA MAKING RAPID PROGRESS

Many of our sister republics are now making a progress that challenges the attention and respect of the world. Some of them are going forward with such splendid energy that they are running a close race with the past records of the United States and the present achievements of Japan. Others are on the verge of a progressive growth that will astonish skeptical critics of the Latin race and delight knowing admirers of their latent possibilties.

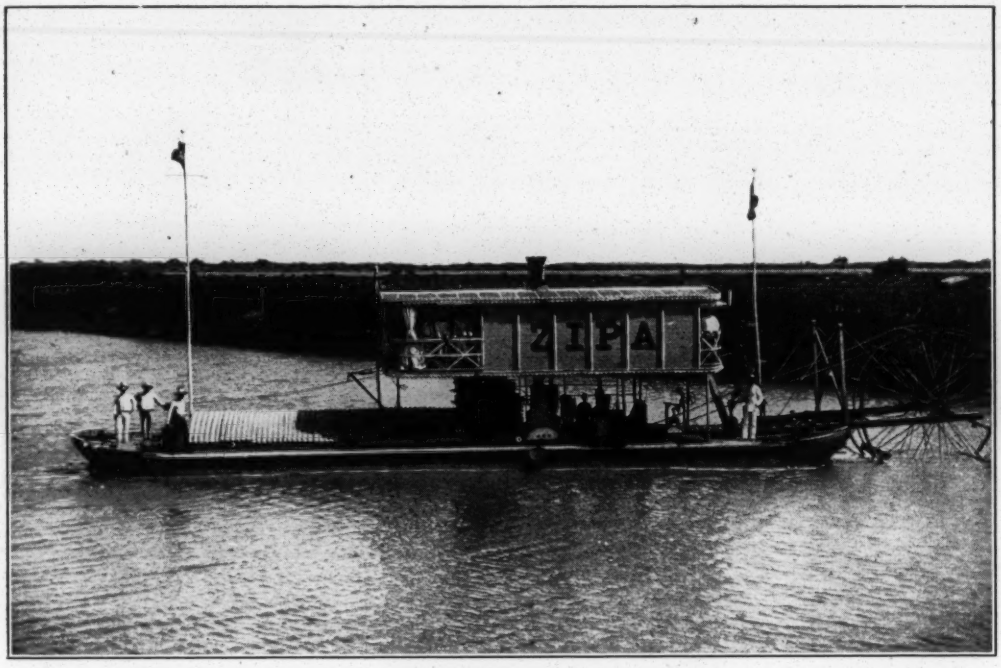
In short, it is safe to predict a forward movement during the next decade for the Latin American republics that will give them a position and prominence among the nations of the earth not thought possible a few years ago. It will bring to them a commerce for which the United States and Europe will compete with every resource at their command.

APPRECIATION OF LATIN AMERICA

The speaker admits that he seems to talk with an element of prejudice. Frankly, he likes Latin America and the Latin peoples! The more he sees of them the better he respects them. Would that more North Americans could become better acquainted with South Americans, study more intimately their impulses, ambitions, hopes, achievements, and see things from the Latin-American standpoint. Otherwise expressed, it would be a signal blessing to international Pan-American accord, and it would inaugurate immediately a new era in the relations of the United States with her sister American republics, if, in thinking, writing, and speaking of them, their peoples, and their politics, we could follow the old Biblical adage and remove the beam from our own eye before looking for the moat in that of the Latin American.



Grand Procession in Bogota on Occasion of the Feast of Corpus Christi, with everybody kneeling at special signal of bell in cathedral



Small River Steamer for Tributaries and Canals of Magdalena River

A CRITICAL TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES

The United States has reached a most critical period in its relations with Latin America. What is done or accomplished during the next two years may determine forever the relative position of North American trade and prestige in Central and South America. The recent Pan-American conference in Rio Janeiro and the unprecedented visit of Secretary Root to South America should awaken sufficient interest throughout the United States in this part of the world to inspire our people in general, and our newspapers, our manufacturers, our merchants, our congressmen, our travelers, and our students of foreign intercourse in particular, to a new and active appreciation of the Latin-American republics.

Without half the reason we have for improving the opportunity, European commercial, financial, and diplomatic interests, with commendable judgment and spirit, which we cannot criticise but must admire, are alive to the situation and doing everything legitimately in their power to retain a hold of which they cannot be dispossessed. They keenly realize the present and future possibilities of the material and economic exploitation of Latin America, and they are leaving no stone unturned to gain the necessary advantages before the manufacturers and tradesmen of the United States suddenly become aroused to the situation and compete for its control.

FACTORS UNFAVORABLE TO NORTH AMERICA

A great factor unfavorable to North American trade and influence in Latin America is the *essential difference in lineage and language;* but this point is little appreciated. The power of similarity in race and tongue is mighty. Kinship in these respects brings men closer together. It makes them more sympathetic, and this counts much in Latin countries. The average North American, instead of care-

Bogota is Situated at the Foot of the Mountains on a High Plateau

fully studying methods of counterbalancing these adverse conditions to his progress in Latin America and of adapting himself thereto, undertakes an independent line of action, and ultimately fails in his purpose.

A second great factor is corollary to the first, and it is one of which, in our seeming abundance of knowledge and self-confidence, we are lamentably ignorant. Frankly termed, it should be called the *"holier than thou"* attitude too commonly and persistently assumed by North American statesmen, newspapers, writers, travelers, and business agents when discussing or dealing with Latin America. In other words, the people of the United States have too often and too persistently and characteristically *"patronized"* the peoples, customs, institutions, achievements, and governments of their sister American nations. *Per contra,* we should give Latin America more credit for its actual and praiseworthy progress in developing stable national and municipal government, in promoting both high class and general education, in making its own excellent literature, historical and romantic, in advancing scientific investigation and invention, in solving grave social and economic problems, and comprehensively striving under difficult conditions to reach a higher standard of civilization.

OUR IGNORANCE OF LATIN AMERICA

How few North Americans realize that Latin-American history during the last four centuries is replete with incident and event, names and results, that compare creditably with those of the United States, Europe, and Asia! How few know the names of the great heroes, statesmen, writers, and scholars who have figured prominently in evolving the Latin America of today! How few are aware that the principal countries and capitals of Latin America have groups of eminent

scholars, scientists, and philosophers, as well as universities and professional schools, which are no less advanced than similar groups and institutions in the United States and Europe!

How few North Americans, moreover, of high position in public life, in literary, scholastic, and scientific circles, visit Latin America and exchange courtesies with their fellow-statesmen and students, as they do with those of Europe! No greater blessing to Pan-American accord could now be bestowed than an exchange of actual visits and views of the leaders of Pan-American thought and action. Latin America is too much accustomed to seeing and meeting only those North Americans who are intent on making money, securing this and that concession, and thinking only of selfish material considerations and a return, with pockets filled, as soon as possible to the United States.

A change, a renaissance in higher-class association, acquaintance, and friendship, will not only start an era of good will and better mutual appreciation, but indirectly prove of extraordinary advantage to commerce and trade. European countries long ago realized the distinct advantage of such intercourse with and knowledge of Latin America, and have improved every opportunity to promote more intimate acquaintance.

NORTH AMERICANS MUST LEARN SPANISH

As to language, it is difficult to speak with patience. So small is the percentage of North Americans visiting Latin America, on business or pleasure, who speak Spanish, Portuguese, or French, that it is a wonder they make any progress in their plans. Ninety-five per cent of the Europeans who go to Central and South America understand one of these tongues. French is mentioned because nearly all the well-educated Latin Americans speak that language. This subject requires no argument; it is simply impossible for the North American who knows none of these languages to become thoroughly "*simpatico*" and to master the Latin point of view in either commercial or political relations. I would that both our business schools and regular colleges might make the study of either Spanish, French, or Portuguese compulsory in order to receive a diploma. Portuguese is more important than is generally regarded, because it is the working language of Brazil—and Brazil today is taking rank as one of the great nations of the world; but the average well-to-do Brazilian also speaks French.

LACK OF FAST STEAMSHIP FACILITIES

In studying the causes that act as deterrents to Pan-American accord, we must emphasize the lack of first-class passenger and mail steamship service, such as characterizes the systems of communication between Europe and Latin America. The long-established and well-defined association of Latin Americans with Europe has been immeasurably encouraged by the excellence of steamship facilities, which have given them ready access to the satisfactory conditions found there, in turn for business transactions, education of families, and enjoyment of leisure and travel. If the average merchant and traveler of South America could reach New York with the same comfort and speed that he can proceed to Paris, there would be at once a vast and radical change in the situation favorable to the United States.

This statement is not made as an argument for a "subsidized" merchant marine. The speaker is not discussing the *pros* and *cons* of that mooted issue. He is simply stating a fact and describing a situation. That there is *not one first-class fast* mail and passenger steamer running between New York, in the United States, and such important South American points as Rio Janeiro and Buenos Aires was given glaring prominence by the experience of the delegates to the recent Pan-American conference in Rio Janeiro. Only a few could obtain accommodations on the one little vessel

Señor Don E. Cortes, Minister of Colombia

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General Reyes, President of Colombia

that, with its sister boat, makes monthly trips to the great capital of Brazil. All the others were forced to go via Europe, where six different lines provide a score of splendid, modern, up-to-date, fast ships between the principal ports and those of South America.

No Latin-American merchant or capitalist is going to North America on a slow semi-cargo boat, with limited accommodations, when there are numerous fast steamers bound for Europe with as fine arrangements as the transatlantic liners. This is axiomatic; but it means the loss of millions of dollars of trade to the United States every year, according to the direct testimony of South Americans themselves! It is true that there are excellent freight steamship facilities between North and South American ports, but they do not meet the passenger requirements any more than would a purely railway freight service suit the traffic between New York and Chicago.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS EXAGGERATED

Too much importance is now attached in the United States to the idea that revolutions prevail all over Latin America, and that therefore commerce and investments are insecure. This conception of Latin America as a whole is entirely erroneous, and does our progressive sister republics a great injustice. The continent of South America today is free of serious insurrectionary movements, with few, if any, indications of more civil wars. The tendency of public opinion and the powerful influence of large business interests in such great nations as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru are all against revolutionary movements, and, although now and then some slight sporadic attempt shows itself, it is most difficult for it to grow into dangerous proportions. Then, again, the gridironing of these countries with railways permits the immediate sending of troops to any place and crushing without delay incipient revolts.

COLOMBIA: A LAND OF GREAT POSSIBILITIES*

Turning now to the direct consideration of Colombia as a land of great possibilities, I wish first to invite your attention to its remarkable location. Colombia is the only South American country that borders on both the Atlantic and Pacific. It therefore holds a position of strategic value in the development of its commerce and in its relationship to the Panama Canal possessed by no other Latin-American nation. It is the nearest South American country to the Gulf and Atlantic ports and to the Pacific ports of the United States. It is the only South American country that has direct access by water to both the Atlantic and Pacific shores of Central America and Mexico. It is the one South American republic that will benefit more than all others by the construction of the trans-isthmian canal. It has in all a coast line of 1,200 to 1,500 miles—about 700 miles on each coast, including the windings of its principal bays and sea inlets. Along both the Atlantic and Pacific shores are one or two excellent harbors, with lesser ones that can be improved by dredging or the building of jetties. In short, it is splendidly equipped by location to develop a large foreign trade. To give a practical idea of the location of Colombia to the United States, it is well to bear in mind the following facts:

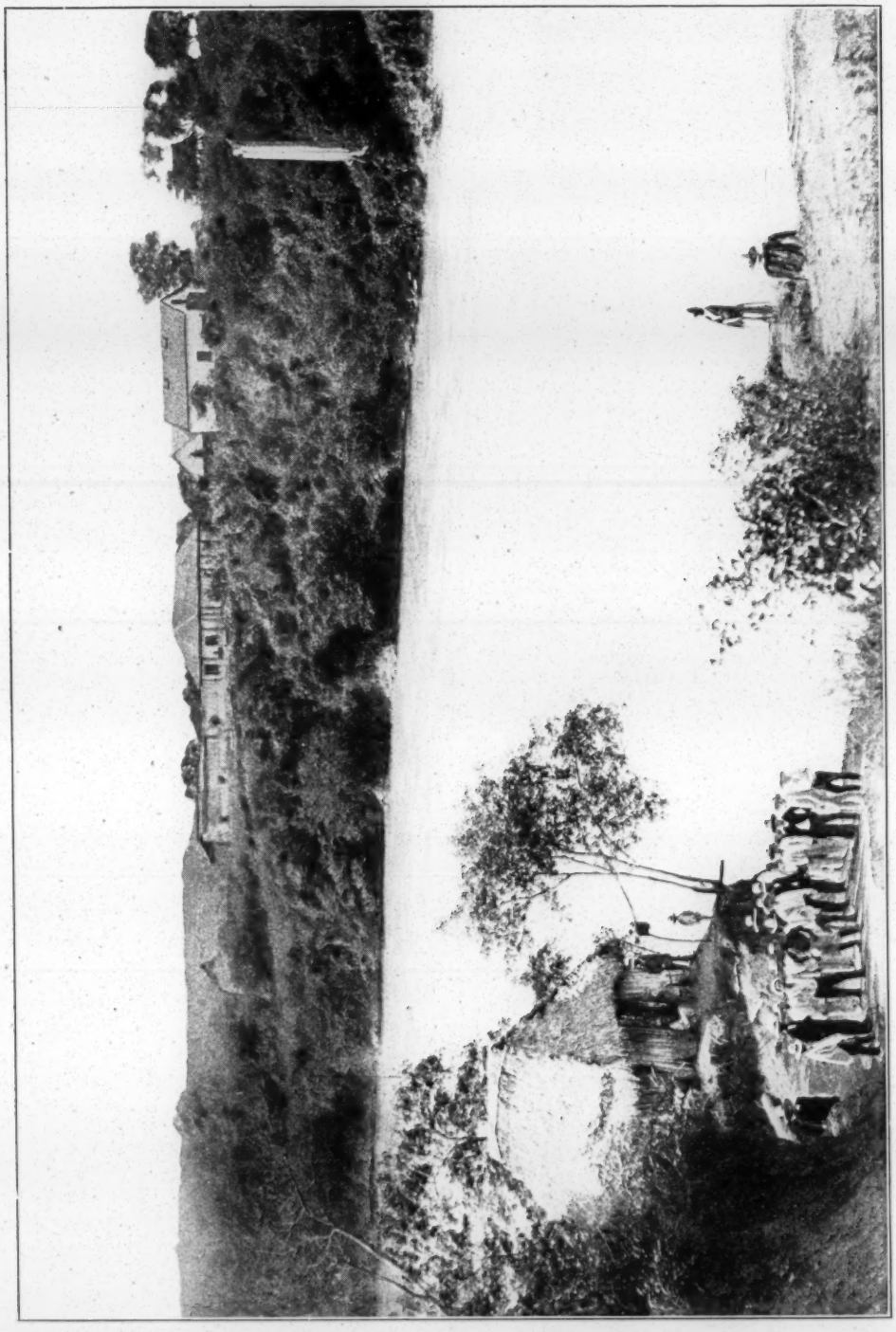
(1) The least distance between Colombia and the United States is only 950 miles.

(2) From Cartagena to Tampa, Florida, is less distance by sea than from New York to St Louis by land.

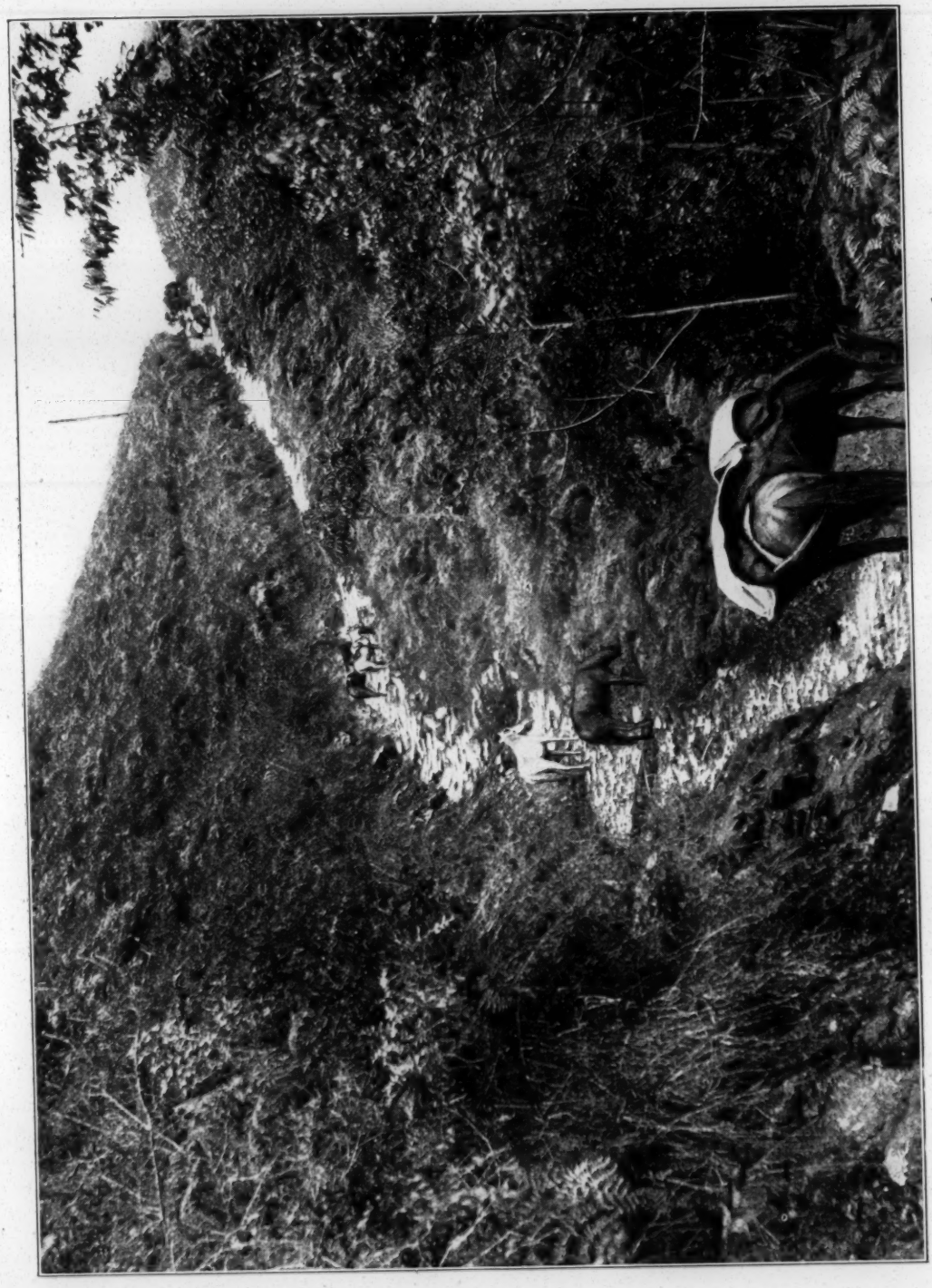
(3) From Cartagena to New Orleans is only 1,400 miles, or four days' easy steaming.

(4) From Barranquilla, another Colombian port, to New York is almost a straight line, due north, less than 1,900 miles and five days' easy steaming.

For a map of Colombia see the map of South America in the August, 1906, number of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE.



A Scene in Colombia on the Upper Waters of the River Magdalena



On the Mule Road to Bogota, Across the Mountains from Honda

Street Scene in Bogota

(5) Colombia is nearer than Panama to the majority of Atlantic and Gulf ports of the United States.

THE AREA OF COLOMBIA

The average North American does not appreciate the size of Colombia. Inasmuch as there are eighteen Latin republics, there is a tendency to think that all of them must be small. Nothing better proves the material possibilities of Colombia than to consider its great area. The best estimates, based on the most recent surveys, give Colombia an area of nearly 500,000 square miles. The following comparisons may enable you to form a clearer idea of her extent:

(1) Colombia is larger than Germany, France, and Belgium combined;

(2) Larger than all the coast States of the United States from Maine to Florida united;

(3) Larger than Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee merged in one State;

(4) As large as California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Nevada, together.

THE CONFORMATION AND CLIMATE OF COLOMBIA

The land conformation of Colombia provides it with a variety of climate that adds immeasurably to its potentialities. Notwithstanding the fact that Colombia is all in the tropical zone and has a considerable portion very near the Equator,

there are large sections that have a temperate climate in the real sense of the word, where are raised all the products of the temperate zone and where men live and work under as healthful conditions as they do in the northern part of the United States. The Andean mountains, or Cordillera, on entering Colombia from Ecuador divide into three ranges, respectively the Eastern, Central, and Western Cordillera. On these are numerous high plateaus, where the principal cities of the interior are located and whose population is prosperous and progressive. There are numerous level and rolling highlands in Colombia where the thermometer seldom goes above 75 degrees Fahrenheit or below 55 degrees. At elevations of between 5,000 and 10,000 feet, this temperature and agreeable climate is found, and the area of this section would cover that of the New England States with New York and Pennsylvania combined.

The traveler who visits either the Atlantic or Pacific coasts of Colombia with their sea-level altitude and their tropical heat gains an entirely wrong impression of what he would find if he journeyed into the interior. Colombia will never be fully appreciated or understood until it is gridironed with railroads, so that visitors can go immediately from the seacoast to the higher sections in the shortest possible time.

Speaking of the conformation of Colombia reminds me to comment on the marvelous scenery that charms one's eyes as he travels over the different parts of the Republic. It has been my privilege to view the best panoramas of the United States and Canada, of Switzerland, and the Himalayas in India, but I have never seen anything to equal the variety, grandeur, and exquisite beauty of the vistas of the Colombian Andes. When, by the construction of the Panama Canal and by favorable conditions of steamboat and railway travel, it will be possible for American tourists to go there with facility and comfort, Colombia will become one of the most-visited countries, both on account of the scenery and climate.

A THOUSAND MILES ON MULE BACK

Perhaps it is possible for me to speak on this matter with some authority because of the recent overland journey which I made, accompanied by Mr Mahlon C. Martin, a prominent American of Bogota, from the capital of Colombia via Quito to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Although the first object of this journey was to meet Mr Root on the west coast of South America, a secondary purpose was to study, and be able to report upon, an important section of South America never before traveled or visited by a North American official, but which will have a vast material and industrial development upon the opening of the Panama Canal.

We traveled in all 1,500 miles, of which 1,100 miles were on mule back. We spent 31 continuous days in the saddle and four days on railroads, in steamboats, and in automobiles. The details of this trip along the "ridge pole of the world" will be reserved for another address which your society has asked me to deliver.

HOW TO GET TO COLOMBIA

Naturally one of the first questions asked in regard to Colombia is how one gets there and how he reaches the capital. The regular route is as follows: One goes from New York to either Barranquilla or Cartagena, on the Caribbean coast. There are at present no steamers running direct to these places without stopping at other ports, but there are two or three lines, notably the Hamburg-American, with the Atlas service, and the Royal Mail, which touch *en route* south at Kingston, Jamaica, and either at Colon, Panama, or Port Limon, Costa Rica, as well as at Kingston, returning north. The trip usually requires, on account of stops, about nine days.

At Barranquilla the river steamer up the river can be taken, or, as some prefer, it is possible to go to Cartagena, and then by rail across to a town called Calamar, on the Magdalena river, where the river boat, in turn, is boarded. Many persons

visit Cartagena in order to see the city, as it is one of the most interesting, historically speaking, in all the Western Hemisphere. No other city in North or South America has such wonderful walls as those constructed in Cartagena by the Spaniards several centuries ago, at a cost of two or three hundred millions of dollars. They are still standing, in almost as good condition as when constructed. The journey up the river consumes from six to ten days, according to the condition of the river. Navigation stops at a town called La Dorada, where a short railroad carries the passenger to Honda. At Honda it is possible to transfer to an up-river, or smaller, steamer and proceed for a two days' journey to a town called Giradot, where begins the railroad that will eventually reach Bogota. At the present time this railroad reaches a point where there must be a mule-back ride of from seven to eight hours to Facatativa, the railroad station on the plateau of Bogota, which, after a run of thirty miles across the savanna, lands one in the capital.

The more common route, however, is that from Honda direct to Bogota, a distance of about eighty miles, or two and a half days' traveling on mule back. It is not as difficult as it would seem, and is interesting because of its novelty and the beautiful scenery. Mules can always be obtained in abundance to carry both passengers and baggage. Trunks and packages should not weigh altogether, for one mule, more than two hundred and fifty pounds, and should be arranged so that no one piece would weigh more than one hundred and twenty-five pounds. In this way two pieces of baggage are carried on one mule's back. Steamer trunks should always be taken instead of large, bulky ones. Heavy trunks and freight must be shipped up the river, to be landed at a point where they are carried by carts to Bogota. Honda is approximately 600 miles up the Magdalena River and Bogota is practically a 700-mile journey, requiring about two weeks' travel, from the seacoast. Women make the journey almost as frequently and easily as men, and there is no reason why American women wishing to go to that part of the world should not undertake the trip as well as men.

BOGOTA, THE CAPITAL OF COLOMBIA

Bogota, the capital of Colombia, is one of the most interesting cities in all Latin America. With a population of 125,000 and beautifully located on the edge of the plateau, in an excellent climate, it always proves an attractive place of residence. The social conditions are particularly pleasing. Nearly all the high-class people with whom one comes in contact live in beautiful homes, are well educated, have traveled abroad, and speak French as fluently as they do Spanish. There is a vigorous literary, artistic, and musical element, which exercises a favorable influence on the refined progress of the nation. There are excellent colleges and general schools. The clubs are centers where the cleverer men of the capital gather. There is opportunity for the enjoyment of sports, especially in such forms as tennis, polo, and riding horseback. Dinners and balls are given with an elegance that would be a credit to Washington or New York, while the women dress with as much taste and respect for the latest fashions as the women of our home capital. It is not possible for me to speak in too strong terms of the charming hospitality and kindness of association which I experienced during my stay in Bogota as United States Minister.

PRODUCTS OF COLOMBIAN SOIL

Considering now some tangible facts about the resources and possibilities of the country, it is well to note the principal products of Colombian soil. In the so-called "hot country" we find coffee, cocoa, sugar, tobacco, indigo, cacao, bananas, vanilla, corn, rice, beans, yucca, oranges, lemons, pineapples, alligator pears, and other tropical fruits growing in splendid abundance. Then in the forests are cedar and mahogany, dyewoods, vegetable ivory, Peruvian bark, rubber

XUM

trees, sarsaparilla, cocoa, ipecacuanha, gums, resins, and rare orchids. Cotton will grow readily in the open, but so far it is little cultivated, while on the warm uplands are cinchona, wax palms, balsam of tolu, vine of the cross, and the arisa in the forest, and corn, barley, wheat, potatoes, etc., in the plantations.

To describe further the products of the cooler plateaus of Colombia would simply be to name those of northern United States and Europe, but the oddity and advantage of it all to Colombia is that the hot and cold zones are in such remarkable and accessible proximity. We do not think of Colombia as a cattle country, but I have seen as fine beef on the hoof in both the hot and cold sections of the Republic as can be raised on our western plains. The day is not remote when Colombia will be supplying the New York market with meat, and it should supply the present and future demands of the Panama Canal Zone not only with beef, but with all other kinds of fresh natural products.

MINES AND MINERALS

Now let us note the ever-fascinating subject of minerals and mines. Colombia would be a rich country if dependent only on its agricultural and forest wealth, but it has a vast supply of minerals and precious stones that alone would make it a land of immense riches. If coal ever gives out in the United States, there is enough in Colombia to supply the world for centuries. It is found in many different parts of the Republic, including Cali, in the Cauca, on the Pacific, and also near the Atlantic coast, while there is so much soft, or bituminous, coal in the mountains around Bogota that the numerous mines running into their sides here and there remind one of giant gopher holes.

There are also indications of anthracite deposits which may rival those of Pennsylvania. So far, these have not been developed, because the natives do not understand or like hard coal.

Gold is mined in the States of Antioquia, Caldas, Tolima, and Santander in richly paying quantities, and *experts declare that some day there will be a "boom" here* like those of the Klondike, California, and South Africa. Silver is found in Antioquia, Cauca, and Tolima; copper in Boyaca; platinum in Cauca; petroleum in Tolima; while lime, alum, chalk, magnesia, sulphur, marble, asphalt, cinnabar, lead, and quicksilver ore are found in large deposits in many parts of the country.

At Pradera, not far from Bogota, iron and coal are side by side in such vast amounts that costly iron works have been erected, and it is now proposed to undertake the manufacture of steel by the Bessemer process.

Special mention should be made of the famous Musa mine, which provides the best and largest number of emeralds of any mine or mines in the world. It is one of the principal sources of income of the Republic, and as it is further developed it will be all the more valuable. Practically the only sure source of supply for the emerald demands of the world is the Musa mine. It is today one of the guarantees which the Colombian government uses for its credit abroad.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Today Colombia is selling to the United States such exports as coffee, hides, alligator skins, goat skins, gold bars and dust, rubber, tobacco, and balsam of tolu, heron plumes and other feathers, straw hats, bananas, cocoanuts, chocolate, ivory nuts, quina, platinum, dyewoods, cedar, mahogany, orchids, etc. The value of these exports to the United States in 1905 approximated $6,300,000 in gold. This amount will be tripled when Colombia is started on an era of permanent peace and the national productiveness is accordingly increased.

Colombian imports from the United States include flour, kerosene oil, agricultural implements, mining and sugar refining machinery, railroad and steamboat

equipment, novelties of all kinds, shoes, matches, arms, sporting goods, hardware, dyes and chemicals, toilet articles, some lines of cotton cloth and clothing, paper and printing supplies, etc.; but, excepting the first of these items, the greatest quantities are supplied by Europe. Imports from the United States in 1905 amounted in value only to $3,700,000, although the grand total of foreign imports amounted approximately from $12,000,000 to $15,000,000.

FIELD FOR SPORTSMEN AND SCIENTISTS

The true American who loves sportsmanship and hunting for the exercise and rest, or the professional explorer and hunter who seeks new fields and prey, will find in Colombia unrivaled opportunities for pleasure or adventure. In the tropical and semi-tropical forests roam the jaguar, puma, bear, amarillo, tapir, peccary, sloth, deer, opossum, and cary. In the trees can be seen monkeys and a multitude of bird species, like condors, parrots, cockatoos, toucans, bush turkeys, or grouse, and humming birds. In the rivers are legions of alligators and iguanas, while along the coast there are numerous turtles. Cranes and storks fly over the damp lowlands and boa-constrictors crawl through the rank vegetation. In the higher and colder country are deer, foxes, mountain lions, and tigers, and along the lagoons and among the fields duck, snipe, and pigeons.

The geologist, mineralogist, botanist, forester, and average scientist, moreover, can always find abundant lines of study and investigation respectively in the geological formation, mineral deposits, flora and tree growth, and general physical characteristics of Colombia. In this connection it must be remembered that the great Humboldt found this part of South America the most interesting of his travels. The National Museum in Bogota contains rare specimens of fauna, flora, mineral and geological development which interest both the layman and the specialist.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Before this discussion is at a close there are a few different points to which reference should be made. First, I desire to speak feelingly and in the highest terms of the President of Colombia, General Rafael Reyes. He undoubtedly stands out today as one of the foremost statesmen in all Latin America. Against heavy odds he is struggling bravely and manfully to evolve Colombia into a condition of permanent peace and prosperity. The terrible heritage that Colombia received from its last civil war, by which her land was reduced to a condition almost of poverty and more than one hundred thousand able-bodied heads of families were lost in battle, is a heavy handicap; but, if he keeps his health and is backed up by his people, he will be sure to place Colombia in the front rank of Latin America. Many criticisms are continually hurled at him by those who are not familiar with his high policies and with the obstacles that are in his path, but all those who have the best interests of Colombia at heart repose confidence in General Reyes' sincerity, ability, and patriotism.

Another point to bear in mind in connection with Colombia is the establishment of the Pan-American Railway connections. The great need of Colombia is railroads. It is interesting to note that many railroads are now in course of construction, and when these are completed they will do much for the progress of the country. One of the most important lines of approach from the coast to the interior is that from Buenaventura, on the Pacific coast, by the way of Cali and the Cauca Valley, and then on to the Medellin, the prosperous capital of Antioquia, which is being built by two Americans, Messrs Alfred Bishop and Edward Mason.

Finally, for the benefit of those who wish to study carefully the Republic of Colombia and form a broader idea of the country than this cursory talk has given them, I desire to call their attention to the

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reports and pamphlets of the International Bureau of American Republics of this city, which is always doing its best to bring about closer acquaintance and relations between the United States and the Latin-American nations. It is also a pleasure to commend the excellent reports of the United States Consul General at Bogota, and the consuls at Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Cali, which are published in the "Commercial Relations of the United States" and the "Daily Consular and Trade Reports" issued by the Bureau of Manufactures, Department of Commerce and Labor.

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CHINA

By Hon. John W. Foster

(*Continued from page 672*)

cities, of an abundant supply of pure water, introduced by the International Government. With these improvements there has come an intense activity in business. This renovation of the native Chinese cities must have a marked influence in strengthening the reform movement in all the departments to which I have referred.

CONDITION OF MANCHURIA

In one respect the country still suffers from the effects of the Russo-Japanese war. Manchuria continues to be held by the two belligerents, greatly to the injury of foreign trade, and especially of that of the United States. Until Chinese sovereignty is restored and custom-houses are re-established, foreign commerce, except that of Japan and Russia, is practically excluded from that vast region. The responsibility for this unsatisfactory condition seems to rest upon Russia. Soon after the war closed the Japanese government sent a special embassy to Peking, and a treaty was made adjusting all questions with China growing out of the war. The negotiations with Russia to the same end have not yet been concluded, owing, it is said, to the unreasonable demands of the latter; meanwhile foreign commerce suffers and the Chinese government is excluded from its sovereign rights in its own domain.

Dr Morrison, who has recently returned to Peking from a visit to Manchuria, reports as a result of his observations that Japan is faithfully fulfilling its obligations with regard to the withdrawal of troops and trade matters. During the last summer a commission of British and American merchants of Shanghai visited Manchuria to look into the trade conditions, and in their report they vindicated the Japanese government from purposely interfering with or placing any obstacles in the way of foreign commerce with that important part of the Chinese Empire. Chinese custom-houses are now being established at Dalny, Newchwang, and other southern ports; but so long as Russia holds possession of the northern section and allows the free import of Russian goods, other foreign countries will be placed at a disadvantage. At present the prospect is very unfavorable for the Chinese government to regain its control of the vast and productive province of Manchuria, the ancient home of its present dynasty.

INFLUENCE OF OTHER NATIONS

In the time allotted for this lecture it will not be possible to speak in any detail of the part already taken and to be

taken by foreign nations in the reforms and transformations in China which we have been considering. The greatest factor has been Japan, not so much through its direct interposition as by its example and achievements in its use of western methods. Its proximity and its ability to aid in the reforms, especially in education and in military development, are likely to make its people the most active foreign participants in the regeneration of China, although in some parts of the Empire there have been manifestations of hostility to Japanese activity in its affairs. It is to be borne in mind that whatever impress is given by Japan will be in the methods of western civilization, for it is through these she has grown powerful. I do not think that Japan or any other one foreign power is likely to exercise a dominating influence in Chinese affairs. The race has in the past ages demonstrated its cohesive power and its ability to maintain a distinctive nationality, and the reforms now in progress will tend to give it greater cohesion and independence.

It is gratifying to note that the government of the United States has always maintained toward China a disinterested friendship. The outcry against Chinese immigration has led Congress at times to harsh legislation, but our diplomatic relations with that country have ever been harmonious, and at times in critical periods our attitude has been most helpful to that Empire. This was notably the case during the Boxer troubles and at the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war. Our commercial relations, for a few months only disturbed by the boycott, are destined to increase with the development of that country and the large number of new places opened to foreign trade. It is also pleasant to be assured that, notwithstanding the late rumors of hostility, the American missionaries are prosecuting their work with less opposition than ever before, and that they are being most useful in aiding in the great educational movement. The legation in Peking reports to the State Department that "the missionaries have every reason to be proud of their past record as educators in China, for although their influence has been indirect, the present movement owes very much more to them than appears upon the surface."

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The work of reform upon which China has entered is a herculean one. Many well-informed foreign observers predict that the movement will break down and the reaction will bring the country back to its ancient conservative ways. There are no doubt many obstacles in the way of success. The Chinese are attempting to bring about in government and society in a very few years what it required centuries for the Anglo-Saxon and other European races to achieve. I have referred to the deliberation with which Japan emerged from her conservative ways and placed herself abreast of modern civilization.

But the very example of Japan makes it possible for China to accomplish the same task more speedily. It is said that the action of Japan in calling to her aid foreign experts in the different departments of reform should be followed by China. I think it would be wise for her to do so to a limited extent. But the situation is different today from that of Japan forty years ago. She had suffered few outrages at the hands of foreigners and felt little or no resentment toward them. Then none of her public men had been educated abroad, whereas China has thousands of subjects who have been educated in America and Europe in all departments and are well able to lead in the reform movement.

There is no doubt a spirit of unrest in the Empire which the anti-dynastic secret societies are fomenting, and the country is exposed to the dangers of revolt, which in the last century were so disastrous; but as the nation outlived them then, it is likely to do so again. Besides, there has been of late a marked manifestation of a spirit of patriotism. The last birth-

day of the Emperor, it is reported, was more generally observed and with greater heartiness than ever before. I have already spoken of the enthusiasm with which the announcement of a constitutional government has been received. The anti-American boycott, although ephemeral, was a surprising demonstration of popular spirit. The Shanghai riot, which startled the world, showed that the Chinese will no longer permit their rights to be invaded with impunity.

The Boxer indemnity is furnishing another evidence of popular feeling. This outrageous imposition, more than double the Japanese war indemnity, is a standing disgrace to the Christian nations—an exaction which Secretary Hay labored to avert and which it is understood he and President Roosevelt thought should no longer be enforced by our government at least. The indemnity was beyond the financial resources of the nation, but thus far the semi-annual installments have been promptly met. To do this, however, an appeal to the people was found necessary. This appeal was responded to by the imperial princes and high officials of Peking and by the officials of the whole country down to the eighth grade, who have agreed to contribute one-fifth of their salaries till the whole indemnity has been paid. Their example has been followed by the gentry and merchants, guilds, societies, Christian churches, primary schools, and all classes contributing liberally according to their means. The press recently reported the action of the barbers' guild of Peking resolving to contribute annually $600 and calling on like guilds throughout the Empire, which if responded to would yield alone a half a million of dollars. The barbers belong to one of the lowest classes in Chinese society, no son or descendant of which to the third generation can aspire to a literary degree or a public office; and yet they have come forward to show their patriotism and love of country in its hour of need. An American resident of Peking, describing this popular manifestation in the *Century* magazine, characterizes it as "one of the most remarkable movements the world has ever seen."*

In the light of these illustrations of Chinese patriotism, we may confidently express the hope that the day is not far distant when the reforms upon which this great people have entered may be in large measure realized; when education shall be generally diffused throughout the country; when the judicial system and the laws shall be made to conform more fully to those of the western nations; when the army shall be raised in numbers commensurate with the population and brought to the European standard of efficiency; when railroads shall bring the various provinces into direct communication with the capital and with each other and commerce shall have free development; when a constitution and representative government shall be established; when it shall be freed from the bondage of exterritoriality and exercise unrestrained control of its tariff; when the evil effects of opium shall be restricted, if not entirely removed; when the people shall have accepted the best features of modern civilization—then will the Chinese Empire be accorded and take its proper place in the family of nations.

That day I believe is not far away. When that day arrives there will be a new alignment among the great powers of the earth and new features introduced into politics and society, not for the hurt, I trust, but for the betterment of humanity. On that day we shall comprehend more fully the great truth proclaimed on Mars' Hill two thousand years ago, that "God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth," and that all races are entitled to equal treatment in law and government.

*Dr. Griggs, in Century Magazine, July, 1906.

PROSPEROUS PORTO RICO

THE past several years have brought much happiness and prosperity to our little island in the West Indies. In an address to the National Geographical Society, November 10, the Treasurer of Porto Rico, Hon. William F. Willoughby, stated that the commerce of the island had doubled since 1901; the number of schools and of children at school had also doubled in the same period, and the health of the islanders had greatly improved, owing to discovery of Dr Bailey K. Ashford and Dr King of a means to cure them of tropical anemia, from which 90 per cent of the population had formerly suffered.

The exports from Porto Rico amount to $24,000,000 annually, of which $19,000,000 come to the United States. The imports amount to $22,000,000, of which $19,000,000 are from the United States. The trade with the United States is now nine times as great as in 1896. Sugar and tobacco are the principal exports, but coffee and citrus fruits are increasing more rapidly. Mr Willoughby believes that the Porto Rican coffee is the best coffee in the world, and that in a few years it will be in great demand.

The railroad mileage has about doubled since American occupation, and the island will soon have a belt line around its coast, over two-thirds being already completed. In five years the Americans have increased the mileage of macadamized roads one and a half times over what it took the Spaniards 400 years to build. Mules, traction engines, and automobiles have supplanted the oxen and carts. The trolley car has also been introduced.

In 1898 there were 539 schools in the island, with an attendance of 22,000. Last year this number had increased to 1,104, with 45,000 pupils. English is taught in all schools, and the Porto Ricans are all anxious to give their children a good education. Those who can afford it send them to the United States.

The climate is very healthful, there rarely ever being a case of yellow fever, with very little smallpox, typhoid, or malaria.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the American control is the discovery of Drs Ashford and King, by means of which the people can be cured of tropical anemia. These gentlemen noticed that large numbers of the inhabitants were suffering from a wasting disease which weakened and ultimately destroyed them. They obtained from the legislature a grant of $5,000 to experiment; found that the wasting disease was caused by a parasitic worm in the intestines, and proceeded to devise a remedy.

Their grant was increased, and finally the work was made part of the public service, with an appropriation last year of $50,000, and stations have been established at convenient points throughout the island where the natives are treated free. The efficiency of the laboring population has been much improved by the work.

THE WELLMAN POLAR EXPEDITION

THE experiences of the past summer have strengthened Mr Walter Wellman's conviction that the air-ship is the only method of reaching the Pole, and that at present the dirigible balloon is the only feasible air-ship. The past summer he completed his base at Spitzbergen, which is to be his starting point, and has now between seven and eight hundred tons of supplies there. He has built in Spitzbergen the largest balloon-house in the world, 180 feet long, 82 feet broad, and 82 feet high. He has two hundred tons of sulphuric acid and eighty tons of iron filings ready to generate his hydrogen gas. During the winter months more powerful motors are being made for his air-ship, so that the total horse-power of the vessel will be 150.

Major Henry E. Hersey, of the United States Weather Bureau, who was appointed as the representative of the National Geographic Society last March, will go north with Mr Wellman again in the same capacity. Major Hersey, it will be remembered, accompanied Lieutenant Lahm in the recent long-distance balloon race from Paris to England, which was won by these two Americans, to the astonishment of France, which had a dozen entries.

HIGHEST CAMPS AND CLIMBS

BY EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

In the summer of 1905, Dr T. G. Longstaff,* with the guides Alexis and Henri Brocherel, of Courmayeur, made a journey in which he explored several little known portions of the Himalaya, and also accomplished some remarkable feats of mountaineering.

On Nanda Devi he camped at 19,100 feet, and the next day climbed to 19,750 feet. On Nanda Kot he camped at 16,300 feet, and the day after ascended to about 21,000 feet.

Later he made a most determined attempt on Gurla Mandhata (25,350 feet), in southern Tibet. After a reconnaissance, through a mistake, on a lower peak (22,200 feet), he went up the western arête of Gurla to an altitude of about 23,000 feet, where they overlooked the 22,200-foot peak. Here the climbers started an avalanche and were carried down nearly 1,000 feet. At the spot to which they had fallen they spent the night. The next day they ascended the Gurla glacier to about 23,000 feet, where they spent the night in a hole in the snow; and the following day they climbed about 1,000 feet higher on Gurla, where they could not have been much below 24,000 feet. It is tolerably certain that this camp at 23,000 feet is the highest altitude at which men have ever had a "good rest," and that this topmost point attained on Gurla is probably the second highest altitude thus far reached.

Dr Longstaff's account is a piece of bald prose, and to a mountaineer should carry the conviction of his veracity. So far, he has escaped being attacked for having successfully carried out these wonderful feats of endurance, in which respect he has been more fortunate than his predecessor, Mr Graham.

Mr Graham† in 1883, with Herr Emil Boss, landlord of the Bär at Grindelwald and captain in the Swiss army, and Ulrich Kauffmann, a first-class guide from Grindelwald, made a journey in the Sikhim Himalaya, in which they reached about 22,700 feet on Dunagiri; ascended A 21, which they christened Mount Monal, 22,516 feet; ascended Jubonu, 21,300 feet; and finally ascended Kabru, which the Indian Survey triangulates as 24,015 feet high.

Mr Graham says: "We were off next morning at 4.30, and found at once all our work cut out for us. The very first thing was the worst. A long couloir like a half-funnel, crowned with rocks, had to be passed. The snow was lying loose, just ready to slide, and the greatest possible care had to be taken to avoid an avalanche. Then a steep ice-slope led us to a snow incline, and so to the foot of the true peak. Here we had nearly 1,000 feet of most delightful rock-work, forming a perfect staircase. At 10 we were at the top of this, and not more than 1,500 feet above was the eastern summit. A short halt for food and then came the tug of war. All this last slope is pure ice, at an angle of from 45 degrees to nearly 60 degrees. Owing to the heavy snow and the subsequent frost, it was coated three or four inches deep with frozen snow, and up this coating we cut. I am perfectly aware that it was a most hazardous proceeding, and in cold blood I should not try it again, but only in this state would the ascent have been possible in the time. Kauffmann led all the way, and at 12.15 we reached the lower summit of Kabru, at least 23,700 feet above the sea. The glories of the view were beyond all compare. * * * However, we had no long time for the view, for the actual summit was connected with ours by a short arête, and rose in about 300 feet of the steepest ice I have seen. We went at it, and after an hour and a half we reached our goal. The summit was cleft by three gashes, and into one of these we got. The absolute summit was little more than a pillar of ice, and rose at most 30 or 40 feet above us still, but, independently of the extreme difficulty and danger of attempting it, we had no time. A bottle was left at our highest point, and we descended."

Many attempts have been made to discredit Mr Graham's ascent of Kabru. These were principally done at the time by Anglo-Indians, who had had little or no experience of mountaineering. Their arguments have been refuted and the folly of most of their statements demonstrated by Mr Freshfield and other writers.* The account of Mr Graham reads clearly and truthfully and should carry conviction to any experienced mountaineer.

To any one who will look at the facts intelligently and without prejudice, there can be no doubt that Dr Longstaff has made the highest camp and the second highest ascent, and that to Mr Graham still belongs the coveted honor of the record ascent.

* T. G. Longstaff: "Six Months' Wandering in the Himalaya." *The Alpine Journal*, 1906, vol. XXIII, pp. 202–228.

†The most complete account of Mr Graham's trip is: W. W. Graham: "Travel and Ascents in the Himalaya." *The Alpine Journal*, 1884, vol. XII, pp. 25–52. Emil Boss and Douglas W. Freshfield: "Notes on the Himalaya and Himalayan Survey." *The Alpine Journal*, 1884, vol. XII, pp. 52–60.

* See Edwin Swift Balch: "The Highest Mountain Ascent." *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, 1904, vol. XXXVI, pp. 107–109.

DRAINAGE OF WET LANDS

Few people realize how valuable the topographic maps published by the U. S. Geological Survey may be in furnishing accurate data on which to base plans for improving swamps and marshes. On these sheets a general drainage plan may be laid down and the feasibility of the proposition definitely determined. There are many areas mapped by the Geological Survey in which enough information has already been collected to make a sub-

stantial beginning for studies in drainage. The really important marsh areas, such as the Dismal Swamp, the Florida Everglades, and the wide reaches in Minnesota, are yet to be mapped, and until that work is done no comprehensive plans for their drainage can be perfected.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

December 14—"Russia and the Duma." By Mr William E. Curtis. Illustrated.

December 15—Annual Banquet. The New Willard. The guests of the evening will include the Italian Ambassador; the Russian Ambassador and Baroness Rosen; the Japanese Ambassador and Vicountess Aoki; the Secretary of the Navy; Commander Robert E. Peary and Mrs Peary; Mr Morris K. Jesup, of New York, President of the Peary Arctic Club, and Mrs Jesup; Mr Herbert L. Bridgman, Secretary of the Peary Arctic Club; and Dr F. A. Cook, who has been the first to ascend Mount McKinley.

The special feature of the evening will be the first award of the National Geographic Society Gold Medal to Commander Peary.

December 21—"On Horseback through the Deserts of Lower California." By Mr E. W. Nelson, of the Bureau of Biological Survey. Illustrated.

January 2—"Between Egypt and the Promised Land: A recent journey into Moab and Edom." By Rev. Franklin E. Hoskins, D. D.

January 4—"German East Africa." By Dr Louis Livingstone Seaman, of New York. Illustrated.

January 18—"Camping Expeditions in the Canadian Rockies." By Mr Howard Du Bois.

January 25—"Bolivia—a Country Without a Debt." By the Bolivian Minister, Señor F. Calderon. Illustrated.

February 1—"The Rising Pacific Empire." By Hon. George C. Perkins, U. S. Senator from California.

February 8—"The Guianas." By Prof. Angelo Heilprin, of Yale University. Illustrated.

February 15—"Ten Years of Polar Work; or, What We Know and What We Want to Know." By Mr Herbert L. Bridgman, Secretary of the Peary Arctic Club. Illustrated.

February 19—"Two Thousand Miles in the Saddle through Colombia and Ecuador." By Hon. John Barrett, U. S. Minister to Colombia. Illustrated.

March 1—"Santo Domingo and Haiti." By Rear Admiral Chester, U. S. Navy. Illustrated.

March 15—"The Regeneration of Korea." By Mr George Kennan. Illustrated.

March 21—"Our Immigrants: Where They Come From, What They Are, and What They Do After They Get Here." By Hon. F. P. Sargent, Commissioner General of Immigration. Illustrated.

March 23—"Queer Methods of Travel in Curious Corners of the World." By Hon. O. P. Austin, Chief Bureau of Statistics. Illustrated.

March 29—"Mexico—the Treasure-house of the World." By Mr N. H. Darton, of the U. S. Geological Survey. Illustrated.

April 5—"A Popular Explanation of Earthquakes and Volcanoes." By Dr G. K. Gilbert, of the U. S. Geological Survey. Illustrated.

April 12—"Captain John Smith and Old Jamestown." By Mr. W. W. Ellsworth, Secretary of the Century Co.

Announcements will be made later of addresses by Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. Navy, who has recently attained "Farthest North," and by Dr F. A. Cook, of Brooklyn, who has accomplished the first ascent of Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The meetings of this course will be held at the home of the Society, Hubbard Memorial Hall, Sixteenth and M streets, at 8 p. m., on the following dates:

December 17—"Enterprising Siam." By Mr Henry S. Kerr, of New York, who has recently returned from that distant land. Illustrated.

February 28—"Acclimatizing Fishes — or Transplanting Fishes from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and Vice Versa, etc." By Dr Hugh M. Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries. Illustrated.

January 11—Annual Meeting. "Aboriginal Agriculture in Guatemala." By Mr O. F. Cook, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Illustrated.

January 16—"The U. S. Forest Service." By Mr Gifford Pinchot, Forester. Illustrated. The Forest Service has charge of 114,606,058 acres of forest land, worth $400,000,000.

January 22—"The Coal Lands of the U. S. Public Domain." By Mr M. R. Campbell, of the U. S. Geological Survey. Illustrated.

February 9—"A Visit to Sumatra." By Mr George H. Peters, of the U. S. Naval Observatory. Illustrated.

February 18—"Reclaiming the Desert." By Mr C. J. Blanchard, of the U. S. Reclamation Service. Illustrated. The Reclamation Service has a fund of $40,000,000, which is being invested in irrigation works.

February 22—"Reclaiming the Swamp Lands of the United States." By Mr H. M. Wilson, of the U. S. Geological Survey. Illustrated.

March 8—"Twenty Years in Beirut and Damascus; or, The Syria of Today." By Rev. F. E. Hoskins. Illustrated.

March 22—"Utilizing the Surface Waters of the United States for Power." By Mr H. A. Pressey, C. E. Illustrated.

April 6—"The South Sea Islanders." By Mr A. B. Alexander, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Illustrated.

April 15—"Photographs of Wild Game Taken by Themselves." By Hon. George Shiras, 3d. Illustrated.

April 19—"A Trip to Argentine and Paraguay." By Mr John W. Titcomb, of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. Illustrated.

XUM

INDEX

Page

Abbot, John M.; The buried city of Ceylon..... 613
Africa, Diamond mines of..... 344
—, New British Empire of the Sudan..... 241
—, Wonderful strides of..... 176
Agriculture in South America..... 455
Airship, The Polar..... 208
— voyages by analogy..... 224
Alaska, Breaking up of the Yukon..... 268
— gold fever..... 82
—, Government of..... 112
—, How much is known of..... 112
—, Recent volcanic action in southeast..... 173
—, Surveying in..... 111
—, Transportation in..... 69
Algeria 599
America and the Orient..... 498
—, Central, Books on..... 480
—, Commerce of, with Japan..... 504
—, Commercial, in 1905..... 452
—, Discoverers and explorers of, Book on..... 364
—, Investments of, in Cuba..... 540
—, Trade of, in the East..... 503
—, North, Area of..... 453
—, South 480
— —, Agriculture in..... 455
— —, Falls of Iguazu..... 456
— —, Forestry in..... 459
— — fifty years hence..... 427
— —, Immigration to..... 431
— —, Manufacturing in..... 455
— —, Mineral resources of..... 478
— —, Missions in..... 459
— — and the Monroe Doctrine..... 476
— —, Panama to Patagonia..... 452
— —, Peruvian route to the plain of the Amazon 432
— —, Railways of..... 428, 478
— —, Rivers of..... 431, 454
Amundsen, Roald, navigator of the Northwest Passage 38
Animals, Extinct, Review of..... 48
—, Marine and fresh-water, of Japan..... 524
Animal wealth of the United States..... 511
Argentine, Fertile pampas of..... 453
—, Granary of South America..... 429
Arizona and New Mexico..... 101
—, Salt River, Project in..... 88
Arctic, The; Address by Anthony Fiala..... 32
Arctic explorations, Amundsen..... 4, 38
— —, Commercial profit from..... 4
— —, Drift casks..... 40
— —, Farthest North..... 638
— —, Greely 4
— —, Northwest Passage..... 38
— —, Peary..... 40, 638, 640
— —, Wellman..... 205, 712
— —, Zeigler expedition, referred to..... 32, 35
Ault, J. P.; Magnetic survey of Pacific Ocean... 648
—, referred to..... 287
Austin, Florence M., Book reviews by..... 329, 301, 364, 426
Austin, O. P.; Commercial America in 1905..... 452
—, referred to..... 205

Bailey, Solon I.; New Peruvian route to the plain of the Amazon..... 432
Barrett, John, Address by, announced..... 648
—; Latin America and Colombia..... 692
Bauer, L. A., Magnetic work of..... 237, 648
—, referred to..... 38, 205
Bell, Alexander Graham; Our heterogeneous system of weights and measures..... 158
—, referred to..... 24, 205
Bell, Charles J., referred to..... 24
Bell, Emily, Letter from..... 115
Bell, Dr Robert, quoted on area of Canadian forests 510
Belgium, Use of Nile banks..... 267
— in the Congo..... 267
Berbers, The..... 118
Bigelow, F. W., placed in charge of meteorological work on Eclipse Expedition..... 594
Bigelow, Poultney, referred to..... 64
Blaine, James G., chairman Pan-American conference, 1889..... 475
Blanchard, C. J.; Winning the West..... 82

Page

Bolivia, Commerce of..... 432
—, Country without a debt..... 478
—, The Mexico of South America..... 452
—, Railroads in..... 430
—, Women of..... 205
Bowen, E. H., referred to..... 648
Branner, J. C., referred to..... 325
Brazil and Peru..... 203
—, Development of 428
—, The New, Book on..... 364
Camp, The highest in the world..... 647
Brazilian Ambassador referred to..... 26
Bridgman, Herbert L.; New British Empire of the Sudan..... 241
Brown, Chester, referred to..... 440
Brown, G. M. L.; Three old ports of the Spanish main 622
Bryan, Charles A, referred to..... 605
Bryant, Henry G., referred to..... 40

Calderon, Ignacio, Summary of speech of..... 477
California, Earthquake in..... 282, 325
Calvo, Joaquin Bernardo, Summary of speech by. 477
Camp, The highest in the world..... 647
Canada, Forests of..... 504
—, Immigrants to..... 356
—, Timber belts of..... 509
Carnegie Institution, Magnetic work by..... 648
— —, Special department for magnetic survey established by..... 38
Casasus, Joaquin D., Mexican Ambassador, Summary of speech by..... 474
Cassel, Sir Ernest, referred to..... 244
Castro, President, referred to..... 631, 637
Cattell, Edward James, Book on South America.. 453
Ceylon, Buried city of..... 613
Chadwick, Admiral, referred to..... 156
Champ, William S.; Address at annual dinner of the National Geographic Society..... 35
—, referred to..... 32, 34
Chancellor, Northeastern voyage of..... 4
Chapman, Robert H.; The deserts of Nevada and the Death Valley..... 484
Chester, Colby M.; The American Eclipse Expedition 589
—, referred to..... 205
Chili, Book on..... 301
—, Death rate of..... 450
China, American goods in..... 173
—, Awakening of..... 500
—, Open-door policy in..... 499
—, Present conditions in; John W. Foster..... 651
—, Reformation of education, penal code, etc., in. 653
Coast and Geodetic Survey referred to..... 38
Colorado River..... 92
Commercial traveler in South America..... 50
Congo, The, Book on..... 301
—, Future of..... 267
Cotidal lines for the world..... 303
Coville, F. V., referred to..... 205
Crab, The blue..... 46
Cromer, Lord, referred to..... 244, 249
Cuba, Commerce of..... 540
—, Immigration into..... 568
—, Labor in..... 539
—, The Pearl of the Antilles..... 535
—, Its population..... 537
—, Provisional government..... 542
—, Railroad in..... 58
—, Results of U. S. occupation..... 538
Culver, Henry S., Report on forests of Canada by 509

Darton, N. H., Letter from..... 302
Davidson, George, referred to..... 325
Davis, S. P., referred to..... 648
Davis, William M., Paper by, referred to..... 176
Death Valley, The..... 483
Deserts of Nevada..... 483
Deserts, Renewed interest in the..... 484
Dewey, George, referred to..... 30
Diamond mines of South Africa..... 344
Dike, P. H., referred to..... 648
Dogs used for transportation..... 79
Durand, Book by Lady, mentioned..... 28
Durand, Sir Henry Mortimer, referred to..... 28

Page

Dutton, Major, cited on waves generated by earthquake shocks 282

Earthquake, California 325
—, Causes of 280
—, Records of, in Washington 296
—, San Francisco, as recorded by the Coast and Geodetic Survey 298
East, The Far, Book on 178
Eclipse Expedition, American 589
Eclipses, How caused 589
Edmund, Charles K.; Land magnetic work 648
Effects of tropical light on white men, Review of 47
Eichelberger, Professor, referred to 604
Elements, Modern transmutation of the 201
Elephant drives in Siam 673
Exploration, Geographical, Early Dutch explorers. 3
— —, Moral and material results of 1

Fairchild, David; Our plant immigrants 179
Fellows, A. L., referred to 90
Ferber, Captain, referred to 205
Fiala, Anthony; Address at annual dinner of the National Geographic Society 32
—, referred to 35
Fisheries, American whale, 1804-1876 4
—, United States Bureau of, referred to 524
Flashlight photographs of wild game 367
Florida Keys, The 5
— — railroad 9, 16
Forestation 16, 315
Forestry, Arizona and New Mexico 101
—, Lumber business of the government 531
Forests as revenues 533
— in South America 459
— of Canada 506
Forest Service, Letter from President Roosevelt on 646
Foster, John W.; Present Conditions in China .. 651
Fremont, Gen. John C., referred to 90

Game, Photographing wild, with flashlight and camera 367
—, Photographs of wild 358
Gannett, Henry, Book reviews by 177, 301, 534
—, referred to 23, 111, 205
Geographic names, U. S. Board on 177
— science 24
— literature 47, 48, 177
— Society, Norwegian, Award made by 588
Geographical problems 5
— Reader, Africa, Carpenter's 177
Geographic Society, National, Address of President Moore at annual dinner, describing the Society and its work 23
— — —, Addresses to 82, 108, 117, 179, 241, 344, 367, 483, 498, 589, 649
— — —, Annual dinner 22
— — —, Annual excursion 302, 358
— — —, Appointment of Major H. E. Hersey to accompany Wellman Polar Expedition as representative of 205, 712
— — —, Membership on December 20, 1905, announced by President Moore 20
— — —, Meetings of 54, 116, 178, 240
— — —, Meetings for 1906-1907 ..... 649, 714
— — —, Peary commended by 638
— — —, W. J. Peters appointed representative of the, and second in command on Ziegler Polar Expedition 32
— — —, Plans of Walter Wellman for reaching North Pole approved by 205
— — —, Report of recovery of drift casks to 40
— — —, Representative of, on Ziegler Expedition referred to 237
— — —, Research Committee of 205
Geology, Book on 533
Gibbs, George S.; The breaking up of the Yukon 268
—; Transportation methods in Alaska 69
Gibraltar 597
Gila River Canal 95
Gilbert, G. K., referred to 325
Glacier, The Roosevelt 240
Godard, Louis, referred to 205, 208, 209, 211, 214
Gold-fish 527

Page

Goupil, M., referred to 205
Gooding, quoted on Idaho 16
Great Britain, Investments of, in Cuba 540
Greely, A. W., Book reviews by 50, 51, 178, 534
—; Geographical exploration; its moral and material results 1
—, Obituary by 51
—, referred to 23
Griscom, Lloyd C.; "The Occident and the Orient;" Address at annual dinner of the National Geographic Society 27
Grosvenor, Gilbert H.; American goods in China. 173
—; The annual dinner of the National Geographic Society 22
—; Annual excursion of the National Geographic Society 302
—, Book reviews by 50, 114, 174, 177, 426, 533, 534
—; Brazil and Peru 203
—; Burning the roads 583
—; Canadian immigration 356
—; Cuba, the Pearl of the Antilles 535
—; Drifting across the Pole 40
—; The golden trout 424
—; Immigration into Cuba 568
—; Isle of Pines 105
—; Lumber business of the government 531
—; Luray Caverns 358
—; A modern Viking (Amundsen) 38
—; Mount Vesuvius 272
—, Notes by 37, 115, 203, 474, 479, 509, 712
—; Ostrich farming in the United States 569
—; Paper from cotton stalks 425
—; Peary's Farthest North 638
—; People of Morocco 108
—, referred to 24, 35, 205
—; Restocking our rivers and waters with fish .. 424
—; Walter Wellman's, expedition to the North Pole 205
—; The wonderful strides of Africa 176
—; The work on the Isthmus 586
Grosvenor, Mrs Gilbert H., Book reviewed by .. 50
Guild, Governor, Annual address 1906 quoted ... 523
Gummere, Minister, referred to 156, 157
Gunnison tunnel 90
Gypsy moth in America and Europe 464

Harris, R. A.; Cotidal lines of the world 302
—, referred to 640
Hastings, C. S., referred to 593
Hatteras, Cape 310
Hay, John, referred to 68
Hayden, F. V., referred to 302
Hayes, C. Willard, referred to 108, 205
Hayes, J. T.; Magnetic survey of the Pacific Ocean 648
Hazlett, Dillwyn M.; Farming on the Isthmus of Panama 229
Heilprin, Angelo; The shattered obelisk of Mont Pelee 465
Heimbrod, G.; Magnetic observations in the South Pacific Ocean 648
Henry, A. J., referred to 205
Hersey, Henry E., Appointed representative of the National Geographic Society to accompany expedition to the North Pole 205, 712
Hervieu, Gaston, referred to 207, 214
Hioki, Eki; Japan, America, and the Orient 498
Hitchcock, Ethan A., referred to 98
Holmes, W. H., referred to 205, 302
Hovey, H. C., cited on Luray Caverns 358
Howard, L. O., Work of, against gypsy moth 464
Hubbard, Gardiner G., referred to 23, 24
— memorial, referred to 24
Hulbert, Homer S., Author "Passing of Korea" .. 575
Hume, Douglas, Paper by, referred to 176
Hydrology of the State of New York, Book on .. 364

Idaho, prosperity of 16
—, Irrigation in 16
Iguazi, The Falls of 456
Immigration, Canadian 356
— necessary to South America 431
—, South American 587
— to the United States, Japanese 512

Page

India, Modern, Book on..... 534
Irrigation work of the government..... 82
— projects.....88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 95, 96
Isle of Pines, The..... 105
— — —, Possibilities of development..... 108
Isthmian Canal Commission, Work of. 56, 60, 64, 229
Isthmian Canal: *See* Panama Canal.
Italian subjects, Books on..... 302
Italy, Book on..... 533

Jagger, Thomas Augustus; Eruption of Mount Vesuvius 318
Jamaica mine workers employed in Panama..... 64
Japan, America, and the Orient..... 498
—, Cultivation of marine and fresh-water animals in 524
—, Industrial and commercial development of.... 501
— influence in China..... 499
— and the Philippines..... 498
Jesup, Morris K., referred to..... 643
Jesuits as civilizing agency in South America.... 460
Julliot, Henri, referred to..... 205
Jungle trails and jungle people..... 177

Kansas, Grain crops of..... 30
Kauffman, A. C., Assisting E. J. Cattell on book of South America..... 453
Klamath project..... 96
Kirkland, A. H., referred to..... 464
Kitchener, Lord, referred to..... 244
Knabenshue, Roy, referred to..... 208
Korea, Extract from book on..... 575

Labrador 364
—, Origin of name..... 587
Lacroix, Hypothesis of origin and construction of Mont Pelee by..... 472
La Gorce, John O., Book reviews by..... 301, 364, 426, 588
Laguna Dam..... 92
Lancaster, E. Ray, referred to..... 173
Land of the rising sun, Review of..... 49
Land of the strenuous life, Review of..... 48
Langley, S. P., Sketch of..... 170
Largelamb, H. A.; Extinct reptiles found in nodules 170
—, Letter from..... 364
Laurier, Sir Wilfrid; The forests of Canada..... 504
—, referred to..... 427
Lawson, Andrew C..... 325
Lawson, Victor, referred to..... 205
Lee, Joseph, Report concerning immigrants to Ecuador 587
Leopold, King, Reign of, referred to..... 265
Leuschner, A. O..... 325
—, referred to..... 298, 299
Lippincott's Gazeteer, Review of..... 114
Liwenthaal, Alexandre, referred to..... 207, 214
Livingstone, David, Results of explorations..... 3
Lockyer, Sir Norman, cited on eclipse..... 612
Louisiana, Book on..... 534
Lumholtz, Carl, Awarded medal..... 588
Luray Caverns..... 358

McGuire, Bird S.; Big Oklahoma..... 102
McKinley, William, referred to..... 68
McKinley tariff law referred to..... 517
Manufacturers' Association referred to..... 58
Martyn, H. E.; Magnetic survey of Pacific Ocean 648
—, referred to..... 237
Marvin, C. F.; The record of the great earthquake written in Washington by the seismograph of the United States Weather Bureau... 296
Massachusetts, Efforts to check ravages of gypsy moths 463
—, Prosperity of..... 523
Matteuci, Dr, referred to..... 323
Melville, George, referred to..... 40
Merriam, C. Hart, referred to..... 205
Merrian, G. A., referred to..... 593, 597
Meriwether, Colyer, Book reviews by..... 47, 48
Mexico, Books on..... 480
Miller, J. M., referred to..... 593, 604
Milne, John, cited on earthquake shocks..... 281
Minidoka project..... 91
Mining in the United States..... 101, 114, 483
Missions in South America..... 459

Page

Mitsukuri, K., cited on marine and fresh-water animals of Japan..... 524
Moore, Willis L., referred to..... 35, 205, 594
—, Toast-master at annual dinner of National Geographic Society..... 23, 26, 29, 32, 34
Morocco, Geographic and political conditions of. 117
—, Good books on..... 157
—, Notes on..... 157
—, People of..... 108
—, Story of captivity by Ion Perdicaris..... 117
Morris, Charles, Book on the discoverers and explorers of America..... 364
Morrison, H. S., Book of South America..... 453
Morse, Fremont, Report of, cited..... 173
Moth, Brown-tail..... 463
—, The gypsy..... 461

Nansen expedition referred to..... 40, 212
Nabuco, Joaquim, Summary of speech by..... 476
Neaves, Grenville, referred to..... 245
Nevada, Life in Goldfield..... 484
—, Truckee-Carson works in..... 90
Newlands, Francis, referred to..... 25, 26
New Mexico, Arizona and..... 101
—, Population of, in 1906..... 102
Nicholson, Sir Arthur, referred to..... 157
Noonan, Representative, cited on tariff..... 517
Norris, Captain John A., referred to..... 599, 612
North Carolina coast..... 310
Noyes, Frank B., referred to..... 205

Occident and Orient, The; Address by Lloyd C. Griscom 27
Oklahoma, Big..... 103
—, Vote of..... 103
Okanogan project..... 98
Omori, F., sent by Japanese government to San Francisco. 325
Orient, Future of the..... 503
Orient, The Occident and the; Address by Lloyd C. Griscom..... 27
Ostrich farming in the United States..... 569

Pacific Coast rising..... 286
— Ocean, Magnetic survey of..... 237
Pampas of Argentine..... 453
Panama, Book on..... 588
— Canal, The..... 55
— —, Book on..... 534
— —, Laborers for..... 58
— —, Notes on the..... 362
— — referred to..... 431
—, Farming on the Isthmus of..... 229
—, Eight-hour law in, an extravagance..... 59
—, Foreign labor in..... 58
— to Patagonia, Books on, referred to..... 430
— — —, Abstract from book by Charles M. Pepper 449
—, Work on the Isthmus of..... 586
Pan-American conferences..... 475
— —, Reasons why the United States should encourage the..... 479
— — referred to..... 427
— Congress mentioned..... 203
Park systems, American, Book on..... 534
Pathfinder dam..... 90
Pearl oyster..... 529
Pearson, J. C.; Magnetic survey of Pacific Ocean. 648
—, referred to..... 237
Peary, Robert E., Arctic work of..... 644
—, Success in reaching "Farthest North"..... 638
—, referred to..... 40
Pelee, Shattered obelisk of Mont..... 465
Pepper, Charles M.; South America fifty years hence 427
Perdicaris, Ion; Morocco, "The land of the extreme west"..... 117
—, referred to..... 108
—, Mrs Ion, referred to..... 141, 146, 147
Peru 449
—, Brazil and..... 253
—, Commerce of..... 432
—, A new route to the plain of the Amazon..... 432
—, A silver table standing on legs of gold..... 478
Peters, W. J., entrusted with command of yacht *Galilee* 237
—, Magnetic survey by..... 648
—, referred to..... 32, 33, 35

Page

Philippines, Charting of the ... 112
Philippine experiences of an American teacher, Book on ... 301
— Islands, Books on ... 534
Pickrell, Watson, referred to ... 569
Pine forests disappearing ... 506
Plant immigrants, Our ... 179
Polar explorations: *See* Arctic explorations.
Polar map, reference to ... 533
Polo Brothers ... 2
Popham, John N., referred to ... 64
Porter, Russell W., referred to ... 35
Porto Rican prosperity ... 712
Portugal, Geographical explorations of ... 3
Preston, W. T. E., cited on immigration ... 356
Provence, Old, Book on ... 301
Putnam, Harrington, referred to ... 647

Rabot, Charles, Paper by, referred to ... 177
Rafter, George W., Book on the hydrology of the State of New York ... 364
Raisuli, The history of ... 151
Ramsay, Sir William; Modern transmutation of the elements ... 201
Ransome, Frederick Leslie; Cause of San Francisco earthquake ... 280, 325
Reclamation service, Letter from President Roosevelt on ... 645
— — law ... 83
— — referred to ... 101, 110
— —, Summary of work by ... 98
Redway, J. W., Letter from ... 115
Reid, H. F., referred to ... 325
Reindeer used for transportation ... 79
Renard, Commandant, referred to ... 205
Reptiles found in nodules; H. A. Largelamb ... 170
Republics, Bureau of American, referred to ... 479
Revelstoke, Lord, referred to ... 244
Rhode Island, Book on ... 534
Roads, Burning the ... 583
Rodey, B. S.; Arizona and New Mexico ... 101
Roosevelt, President, cited on Panama Canal .. 60, 63
—, Letter to Congress of Engineers on irrigation and forestry ... 645
—, Order by, concerning Board on Geographic Names ... 177, 588
—, referred to ... 24, 55, 60, 68, 372, 507
—, Subject of address by William H. Taft ... 25
Roosevelt Dam ... 89
Root, Elihu, cited on Pan-American conference .. 479
—, referred to ... 26, 29, 476
Root, Mrs Elihu, referred to ... 26
Rubinow, I. M., referred to ... 580
Russell, I. C., referred to ... 302
Russia's wheat surplus ... 580
Rutherford, Ernest B., cited on radium ... 202

Salton Sea ... 95
Sand dunes ... 311
San Francisco earthquake ... 298
— —, Probable cause of the; Frederick Leslie Ransome ... 280
Santos-Dumont, referred to ... 208, 217
Scidmore, Miss Eliza R., referred to ... 648
—; Greatest hunt in the world ... 673
Scott, Charles F., Address by ... 29
Scroggy, Thomas E., referred to ... 168
Scruggs, Ex-Minister; Version of story of "The consul and the coffin" ... 637
Seismograph, The ... 297
Seton-Thompson, Ernest, referred to ... 90
Shiras, Hon. George, 3d, Photographing wild game with flashlight and camera ... 367
—, referred to ... 358
Shonts, Theodore P.; The Panama Canal 55, 362
Shoshone Dam ... 90
Siam, Elephant drive in ... 673
Smith, Tangier, referred to ... 138
Spain, Geographical features affected by meteorological conditions ... 590
—, The glorious geographical history of ... 3
—, Interest of King in visit of American astronomers ... 605
—, Porta Coeli ... 606
Spanish explorers ... 3
— main, Old ports of ... 622
Seeger, Eugene, cited on Brazil ... 203
Soddy, Frederick, referred to ... 203

Page

Southard, James H., chairman of Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures ... 160
Stafford, G. H., referred to ... 593
Stanley, Henry M., African explorations compared to those of Columbus ... 4
Statistics, Bureau of, cited on commerce of Cuba. 540
Stonewall Flat, The ... 485
Stratton, S. W., referred to ... 164
Sudan, The New British Empire of the; Herbert Bridgman ... 241
Sugar-beet culture ... 16
Surcouf, Edward, referred to ... 205

Taft, William H.; Address at Habana ... 542
—; Address at annual dinner of National Geographic Society ... 25
—, referred to ... 25, 26, 28, 55, 64
Taft, Mrs William H., referred to ... 26
Taintor, C. M., Letter from, referred to ... 302
Tariff on live stock ... 517
Telegraphy, Wireless, Experimented with ... 310
Terrapin farms ... 525
Testimony of an American business man who lived 16 years in Panama ... 64
Tibet and Turkestan, Book on ... 239
Tides, Range of ... 307
Tittmann, O. H., referred to ... 110, 173, 205, 298
Transvaal, Gold fields of ... 114
Tree, Oldest, in the world ... 622

United States, Animal wealth of ... 511
— — coal fields ... 101
— — commerce with Cuba ... 540
— — exportation of leather goods ... 521
— —, Greatest industry of the ... 513
— —, Influence of the ... 25
— —, Lumber business of the government of the. 531
— — ostrich farming ... 569
— —, Petroleum output of the ... 114
— —, Progress in surveying of the ... 110
— —, Railroads of the ... 497
— —, Sheep and wool industry of the ... 514
— —, Table of comparative values of industries of the ... 514
— —, Tin consumed by the ... 479
— —, Wealth per capita of the leading cities of the ... 523

Valparaiso ... 449
Van Horn, William, referred to ... 58
Varley, Cromwell, referred to ... 141
Vesuvius, eruption of ... 318
—, Mount ... 272
Volcanoes ... 278, 465
—, Books on ... 279

Warren, Frances E.; Animal wealth of the United States ... 511
Washington *Post*, referred to ... 64
Washington State, Okanogan project ... 98
Weights and measures, Our system of ... 158
Wellman, Walter; The Polar airship ... 208
— expedition to the North Pole ... 205, 712
West Indies, Books on ... 534
Wright, Luke E., referred to ... 27
Wright, Marie Robinson, Book on the New Brazil 364
—; The Falls of Iguazu ... 456
Williams, Gardiner F.; The diamond mines of South Africa ... 344
Willoughby, W. F., Address on Porto Rico by ... 712
Wilson-Gorman act, Experience of United States under ... 517
Wind does the work; Collier Cobb ... 310
Wood, Gen. Leonard, Extract from report on Cuba by ... 538
Workman, Mrs Fanny B., Ascents in Himalayas by ... 647
Wright, F. E., referred to ... 176
Wyoming, Pathfinder Dam ... 90
—, Shoshone Dam ... 90
—, Snake River Valley ... 92

Yakima Valley ... 98
Yellow peril ... 498
Yukon, Breaking up of the; Captain George S. Gibbs ... 268

Ziegler expedition referred to ... 207
Zeppelin, Count, referred to ... 207

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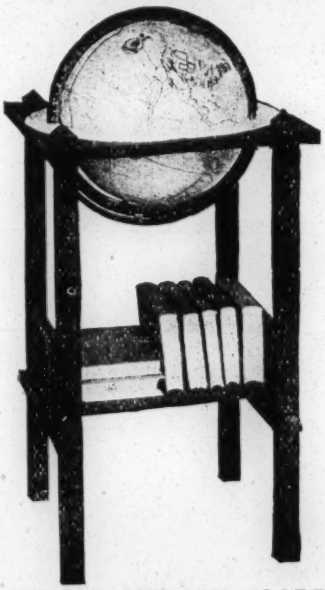

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CONTENTS

	Page
Geographical Exploration: Its Moral and Material Results; by General A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, U. S. A.	1
The Florida Keys; by John Gifford	5
Prosperous Idaho: An interview with Governor Gooding, of Idaho	16
The Annual Dinner of the National Geographic Society	22
A New Department	37
A Modern Viking	38
Drifting across the Pole	40
The Blue Crab	46
Geographic Literature	47
"The Effects of Tropical Light on White Men" (Maj. Charles E. Woodruff, Surgeon U. S. A.)	47
"Extinct Animals" (E. Ray Lancaster)	48
"In the Land of the Strenuous Life" (Abbe Felix Klein)	48
"The Land of the Rising Sun" (Gregoire De Wollant)	49
"A Commercial Traveler in South America" (Frank Wiborg)	50
"With Flashlight and Camera"	50
"The Indian Dispossessed" (Seth K. Humphrey)	50
Obituary (Von Richtofen)	51
Correspondence	51
National Geographic Society	54
The Panama Canal; by Hon. Theodore P. Shonts, chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission	55
Transportation Methods in Alaska; by Captain George S. Gibbs	69
Winning the West; by C. J. Blanchard	82
Arizona and New Mexico	101
Big Oklahoma	103
The Isle of Pines	105
The People of Morocco	108
Progress in Surveying the United States	110
How Much is Known of Alaska	112
A Dictionary of Universal Geography	114
Correspondence	115
National Geographic Society	116
Morocco, "The Land of the Extreme West;" by Ion Perdicaris	117
Notes on Morocco	157
Good Books on Morocco	157
Our Heterogeneous System of Weights and Measures; by Alexander Graham Bell	158
S. P. Langley	170
Extinct Reptiles Found in Nodules	170
American Goods in China	173
Evidence of Recent Volcanic Action in Southeast Alaska	173
The Wonderful Strides of Africa	176
U. S. Board on Geographic Names	177
Geographic Literature	177
"Jungle Trails and Jungle People" (Caspar Whitney)	177
"Carpenter's Geographical Reader—Africa" (Frank G. Carpenter)	177
"The Far East" (Archibald Little)	178

Page

National Geographic Society 178
Our Plant Immigrants; by DAVID FAIRCHILD, Agricultural Explorer, in Charge of Foreign Explorations 179
Modern Transmutation of the Elements; by Sir WILLIAM RAMSAY 201
Brazil and Peru 203
Walter Wellman's Expedition to the North Pole 205
The Polar Airship; by WALTER WELLMAN 208
Farming on the Isthmus of Panama; by DILLWYN M. HAZLETT 229
An Interesting Photograph 237
Magnetic Survey of the Pacific Ocean; by L. A. BAUER 237
"Tibet and Turkestan" (Oscar Terry Crosby) 239
The Roosevelt Glacier 240
National Geographic Society 240
The New British Empire of the Sudan; by HERBERT L. BRIDGMAN 241
The Breaking up of the Yukon; by Captain GEORGE S. GIBBS 268
Mount Vesuvius 272
The Probable Cause of the San Francisco Earthquake; by FREDERICK LESLIE RANSOME 280
The Record of the Great Earthquake Written in Washington by the Seismograph of the U. S. Weather Bureau; by C. F. MARVIN 296
The San Francisco Earthquake of April 18, 1906, as Recorded by the Coast and Geodetic Survey Magnetic Observatories; by L. A. BAUER and J. E. BURBANK 298
Geographic Literature 301
"The Republic of Chili" (Marie Robinson Wright) 301
"The Congo" (a Report of the Commission of Inquiry) 301
"Old Province" (Theodore A. Cook) 301
"The Philippine Experiences of an American Teacher" (William B. Freer) 301
Books on Italian Subjects 302
Letter from N. H. Darton 302
Annual Excursion of the National Geographic Society 302
Cotidal Lines for the World; by R. A. HARRIS 303
Where the Wind Does the Work; by COLLIER COBB 310
The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius; by THOMAS AUGUSTUS JAGGAR, JR. 318
The California Earthquake 325
The Diamond Mines of South Africa; by GARDINER F. WILLIAMS 344
Canadian Immigration 356
Photographs of Wild Game 358
The Luray Caverns 358
Notes on the Panama Canal 362
Notice to Members 364
Letter from H. A. Largelamb 364
Geographic Literature 364
"Hydrology of the State of New York" (George W. Rafter) 364
"The New Brazil" (Marie Robinson Wright) 364
"The Discoveries and Explorers of America" (Charles Morris) 364
Photographing Wild Game with Flashlight and Camera; by GEORGE SHIRAS, THIRD 367
South America 424
Growth of Florida 424
The Golden Trout 424
Restocking our Rivers and Waters with Fish 424
Paper from Cotton Stalks 425
The Skeleton in Luray Cave 425

Page

Geographic Literature 426
"Rise of the New West" (Frederick Jackson Turner) 426
"Statesman's Year-Book" for 1906 426
"Hints to Travelers" 426
South America Fifty Years Hence; by CHARLES M. PEPPER 427
A New Peruvian Route to the Plain of the Amazon; by SOLON BAILEY 432
From Panama to Patagonia 449
Commercial America in 1905; by Hon. O. P. AUSTIN 452
The Fertile Pampas of Argentine 453
The Falls of Iguazu; by MARIE ROBINSON WRIGHT 456
The Gypsy Moth 461
The Shattered Obelisk of Mont Pelée; by Prof. ANGELO HEILPRIN 465
What the Latin American Republics Think of the Pan-American Conferences 474
Reasons Why the United States in Particular Should Encourage the Pan-American Conferences 479
Good Books on Mexico, Central and South America 480
The Deserts of Nevada and the Death Valley; by ROBERT H. CHAPMAN 483
Japan, America, and the Orient; by Hon. EKI HIOKI 498
The Forests of Canada; by Sir WILFRID LAURIER 504
The Vast Timber Belts of Canada 509
Animal Wealth of the United States; by Hon. FRANCIS E. WARREN 511
Cultivation of Marine and Fresh-water Animals in Japan; by K. MITSUKURI 524
The Lumber Business of the Government 531
A Polar Map 533
Geographic Literature 533
"Elements of Geology" (Prof. W. H. Norton) 533
"Italy" (W. Deecke) 533
"The Philippine Islands, 1493–1898" 534
"Modern India" (William Eleroy Curtis) 534
"Problems of the Panama Canal" (Brig. Gen. Henry L. Abbott) 534
"American Park Systems" (Andrew Wright Crawford) 534
"Rhode Island" (Irving Richman) 534
"Louisiana" (Albert Phelps) 534
"American Commonwealths" 534
Good Books on the West Indies 534
Cuba—the Pearl of the Antilles 535
The Immigration into Cuba 568
Ostrich Farming in the United States 569
The Passing of Korea 575
Russia's Wheat Surplus 580
Burning the Roads 583
The Work on the Isthmus 586
South American Immigration 587
Note on Glacier Discovery 587
The Origin of "Labrador" 587
Executive Order 588
Geographic Literature 588
"Panama, the Isthmus and Canal" (C. H. Forbes-Lindsey) 588
The American Eclipse Expedition; by Rear Admiral COLBY M. CHESTER, U. S. N. 589
The Buried City of Ceylon; by JOHN M. ABBOT 613
Three Old Ports on the Spanish Main; by G. M. L. BROWN 622

Page

Farthest North 638
Two Great Undertakings 645
The Highest Camp in the World 647
Announcement 648
Recent Magnetic Work by the Carnegie Institution of Washington 648
Program of Meetings of the National Geographic Society, 1906–1907 649
Present Conditions in China; by Hon. JOHN W. FOSTER, formerly U. S. Secretary of State 651
The Greatest Hunt in the World; by ELIZA RUHAMAH SCIDMORE, Foreign Secretary of the National Geographic Society 673
Latin America and Colombia; by Hon. JOHN BARRETT, United States Minister to Colombia 692
Prosperous Porto Rico 712
The Wellman Polar Expedition 712
Highest Camps and Climbs; by EDWIN SWIFT BALCH 713
National Geographic Society 714

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Map of South Florida	6
Sponges drying on the wharf at Key West	7
Green turtle on the wharf at Key West	8
"On Elliott's Key"	10
The grape fruit, or pomelo	11
On the mainland of Biscayne Bay at Cocoanut Grove	12
In the hammock. 2. A mangrove swamp. 3. Shows the character of the wall built of coral rock. 4. Drilling a hole in the coral rock to blast a hole for a grape-fruit tree. 5. Seminoles coming in from the Glades with venison; shows also a rock road. 6. A thrifty camphor tree	12
Old plantation on Elliott's Key	12
Seminole Indians in their dug-outs near Miami	14
Alligator eggs and young alligators just hatched in the glade back of Miami	15
Monasteries of the air: The only way of reaching	17
Ascending to the monastery of the air	18
Another view of a monk ascending to the monastery of the air, Greece	19
View of a pigeon farm at Los Angeles, California	20
Another view of the pigeon farm at Los Angeles, California	21
Outline map to show Amundsen's route; also conjectural route of the drift cask picked up on the coast of Iceland	39
Amundsen's ship	40
Eskimo women from Cape Fullerton, the extreme north end of our continent	41
Russian soldiers	42
A group of Russian peasants	43
A group of young Russian peasants	44
Types of Russian workingmen	45
Factory children in South Russia	46
Harbor of Rio	49
Plowing up salt in the Sea of Salton	52
Cottages built for married employees at Cristobal, Panama	61
A typical hotel for canal employees at Corozal	62
Cottages for married employees at Corozal	63
Fumigating force, Panama	66
Opening of Panama waterworks system, July 4, 1905	67
"Foxy"	68
Horse sleds delivering supplies along the trail between Valdes and Copper River	70
Soldiers of the United States Army dragging a sled through soft snow	70
Horse sleds returning for another load	71
U. S. Army steamboat laid up for winter on a sandbar	71
Signal Corps repair men from U. S. telegraph office, with dog-team, out on repair trip	72
Skaguay, seaport town of southeastern Alaska	72
Signal Corps dog-team	73
A typical picture of an Alaskan prospector with his dog-team	73
Indians traveling by dog-team on Yukon River	73
A phenomenal dog-team	73
Indian basket sled of Central Alaska	74
Indian birch bark canoe	74
Traveling by dog-team in Alaska	75

	Page
Seals	77
Feeding the dogs	77
Reindeer	78
Going out on the ice for whales in April	78
Hauling supplies to whale ships on the Arctic coast of Alaska	81
At work on one of the ditches of the Truckee-Carson project in Nevada	84
One of the canals of the Truckee-Carson project, Nevada	85
Opening one branch of the Truckee-Carson system	86
"The canals tunnel through hills"	87
Government sawmill in Arizona	88
A cabbage farm near Phœnix, Arizona	91
Site of the Pathfinder Dam	93
Relief map of the Lower Colorado River	94
Indians building a road to the Roosevelt Dam, Arizona	96
Moving camp, U. S. Reclamation Service	97
Tunnel made by engineers through a granite mountain before beginning work on the Shoshone Dam	99
In Arizona	100
Twin towers of the Cliff Dwellers in New Mexico	102
A round-up on the Sierra Bonita Ranch, Willcox, Arizona	104
One of the streams of the Isle of Pines	106
A Spanish laurel; Isle of Pines	107
The Sultan of Morocco	109
Coast Survey party loading outfit into canoes 1¼ miles from shore, Yukon, Alaska	110
Map of Alaska showing unexplored areas in 1905	112
A company of Norwegian soldiers	113
Industrial conditions in Rangoon, Burma	115
Native boy orchestra in Garoet, Java	115
View of Tangier	123
Dar El Beit, the treasury in the fortress at Tangier	124
Saints' shrines at Tangier	125
Moorish saint	126
Peasant Berber woman and child	127
Market day	128
Main street of Tangier	129
The gateway of Bab El Fhas, with the Kasbah or fortress of Tangier in the background	130
Laab El Barnd or powder play, Tangier	131
The entrance to Tangier through arches of the custom-house	132
Crossing a stream in Morocco near Fez	133
One of Raisuli's men—a Berber	134
A typical Moor of Tangier	134
A Soudan minstrel	135
Peasant girl and water vendor at Tangier	135
A type general throughout Morocco and its neighbor Algeria	136
A Moorish belle	137
Aidonia, the summer residence on the Spartello Headland of Ion Perdicaris	138
View in the grounds of Aidonia	139
The British consul at Tangier and Kaid, Sir Harry Maclean	140
Remains of a Roman bridge not far from Tangier	141
A group of camels passed on the way to Tsarradan	142

Page

A waterwheel driven by a donkey on the road to Tsarradan 143
Encampment of migratory shoemakers outside of Tangiers 144
Moorish women at the spinning-wheel waited on by a slave 145
Courtyard of a Moorish residence in Fez 146
View of one of the dark patches in the cliffs of the River Dwina. 2. Professor Amalitzky's workshop in Warsaw. 3. Peasants working on the face of the cliff near Archangel. 4. A series of skeletons of Pariasaurus 171
Photograph of a skeleton of Pariasaurus. 2. Photograph by Professor Amalitzkyon on larger scale of a skull of a Pariasaurus. 3. Skeleton of a huge carnivorous beast of prey. 4. Skull of the gigantic theromorph carnivorous reptile 172
One of the nodules, showing form of the embedded skeleton 173
Condition of American case goods on arrival at Tientsin, China 174
Trusses of American piece goods on arrival at Tientsin 174
Bales of piece goods from Holland on arrival at Tientsin 175
A typical pile of American piece goods on arrival at Tientsin 175
Disembarking passengers, Portugese East Africa 177
Monument erected to the man who first introduced citrus fruits into Japan 182
A field of spineless cactus in Tunis, planted for fodder. 2. A camel browsing off the spineless cactus of Tripoli. 3. An orchard of the carob in full bearing in Spain. 4. The spineless cactus of Tunis. 5. The Egyptian papyrus. Most beautiful of water plants for Florida streams 185
The short-kernelled Japanese rice that does not break in milling. 2. The long-kernelled rice which broke badly when milled. 3. A Japanese colonist in his field of Japan rice in Texas. 4. Macaroni made in Naples. Exposed to the dust and dirt of the street. 5. A bamboo timber yard in Japan. 6. A clump of the giant bamboo in Natal, South Africa. 7. Trees of the East Indian mango. The noted Bombay variety 186
A Durum wheat field at the New Mexico experiment station 188
A sample cutting and the way it is put up and mailed to the Department of Agriculture 191
Packing figs in a Smyrna fig establishment 192
Distributing insect-laden figs in a Smyrna fig orchard in order to fertilize the flowers 193
An Arab climbing a tall palm in a garden at Biskra, Algeria, to pollinate the flowers .. 195
The mangosteen, queen of the tropical fruits. One-half natural size. 2. The beginning of the government's date garden in California. 3. A young imported Mulgoba mango tree in Florida. 4. A basketful of Japanese Loquats as sold in the markets of Malta. 5. A young California date palm loaded with fruit 196
Original appearance of salt lands 198
Appearance of the same salt lands two years after planting of berseem 199
A wagon rain covering, four years old, made of Mitsumata paper and oiled with Perilla oil. 2. A hillside in Japan covered with the Mitsumata paper plant. 3. Camel loads of berseem entering Cairo in the early morning. 4. Century-old olive orchards in the island of Zante, Greece 200
General features of the plans for the airship of the Wellman Chicago Record-Herald Polar expedition 206
Plans of the airship of the polar expedition 210
Diagram showing effect of wind on airship 216
Diagram showing method of operating retardateur cable 217
Diagram showing method of suspension and operation of retardateur cable 217
Panaman corn farm 229

Page

Farm of Albredo Aleman, Panama ... 230
Panaman mango ... 231
Panaman cattle ... 232
Orange tree, six years old, Panama ... 234
A group of Highland cattle on the farm of Mr. W. M. Van Norden, Rye, New York ... 235
The wonderful salt deposit in the little-known Athabasca district of Northern Alberta ... 236
Walter Wellman ... 237
Russian chapel after the earthquake, Andijan ... 238
A Kashgar crowd ... 238
A Samarcand Jewess in ceremonial attire ... 239
Map showing British Empire in Africa ... 245
Plowing land which has been baked by the sun ... 247
Egyptian bride going in state to her new home ... 247
Dahabeahs of the Nile. 2. Avenue of the Sphinxes, Luxor. 3. Street scene, Omdurman. 4. Temple of Isis, Philæ ... 248
A water-carrier, Khartum ... 249
A fruit-seller, Omdurman ... 249
Bank of the Blue Nile below Khartum. 2. Arab suburbs, Khartum. 3. Bisharin Arabs, Omdurman. 4. Kasr el Nil bridge, Cairo ... 250
Arrival of the Kodofan camel train, Omdurman. 2. Grand Hotel, Khartum. 3. Watching the polo players, Omdurman. 4. Between Blue and White Niles, Khartum ... 251
Girls at Omdurman ... 252
Raising water from the Nile by means of the shadoof ... 253
Raising water from the Nile by means of the Archimedean screw; interior construction at right ... 254
A cobbler on the street, Khartum ... 255
Palace of the Sirdar, Khartum ... 256
Gordon statue, Khartum ... 256
A Sudanese policeman, Khartum ... 257
A parade of the Shillook Regiment in honor of Princess Beatrice, Khartum ... 258
Shillook warriors ... 259
Advancing through the Sudd ... 260
Group of convicts, Fashoda ... 260
Types of natives ... 261
General view of Tewfikieh ... 262
One thousand miles up the Nile from Khartum ... 263
Nearing the Equator. A village scene at Bor ... 264
The mail leaving Lado for stations in the Congo Free State ... 266
The Yukon River breaking up ... 268
Picture taken at Fort Gibbon in October ... 269
Another taken from the same point on the 23d of May ... 269
The bank of the Yukon at Fort Gibbon being piled high with ice ... 270
Immense chunks forced by their fellows far up on the bank ... 270
Destruction wrought by the ice flow ... 271
A street in Naples ... 273
Naples and Vesuvius ... 274
Houses in Naples ... 275
A street in Pompeii ... 276
A view of Amalfi ... 277
Sorrento ... 278
Vesuvius in eruption ... 279

Page

Outline map of San Francisco Bay and vicinity 281
A typical quarry exposure of sandstone beds in the Franciscan series 283
Radiolarian chert at Hunters Point 284
Map of the San Francisco Peninsula 287
Coast of California 288
Curious pillow structure in basalt 289
An outcrop of Miocene strata on the coast of California 290
White oaks on Piajo Creek 291
Record of the San Francisco earthquake 292
The seismograph of the U. S. Weather Bureau 293
The San Francisco earthquake 294
Map showing cotidal lines for the world (8 by 14 inches) ..... Supplement
Chart showing systems of semi-diurnal tide 305
Diagram showing cotidal lines for the Mediterranean Sea 306
Diagram showing cotidal lines for the Gulf of St. Lawrence 308
A garden at Eagle, Alaska 309
Sail car on Church's Island, N. C 310
Map of sand reefs along the North Carolina coast 311
Shackleford sandwave advancing on forest 312
Windmill on Harker's Island, N. C 312
Forest covered by Shackleford sandwave 313
The wreck of the "Priscilla" 314
Cemetery on Hatteras Island, N. C 314
Wreckage above Hatteras 315
Palmettos on Smith's Island, N. C 316
Making fishing nets 317
Looking down into the new crater of Vesuvius 318
The cauliflower cloud from above Vesuvius 319
The ruins of Boscotrecase, 1906 320
A pine tree overwhelmed by lava, Boscotrecase 321
The ruins of Ottajano, 1906 322
The new cone of Vesuvius 324
A difficult bit of rock climbing 325
Sunken area on Market Street near the Ferry Building 326
A fissure opened by the earthquake on East Street 327
An "earthquake wave" at Seventh Street and Missouri Avenue, at the corner of the new U. S. post-office 328
The city hall 329
Scenes at Leland Stanford, Jr., University 330
Scenes at Leland Stanford, Jr., University 331
Scenes at Leland Stanford, Jr., University 332
Scenes at Palo Alto 333
The two spires of St. Dominic 334
At the junction of Pine and Market Streets 334
Looking down Pine Street 335
Looking east from Jones Street 336
Nob Hill from Van Ness and Washington Streets 336
St. Francis Hotel 337
The Commercial High School 338
Montgomery Street from Market Street 339
The remains of the California Hotel 340

Page

The custom-house, corner of Washington and Battery Streets 341
Camping out in Jefferson Square 342
San Francisco getting fed 343
A Zulu and his ten wives 344
Zulu workmen of the diamond mines 345
De Beers compound 347
Swimming bath, De Beers compound 348
Zebras 349
A diamond thief 350
Miners going to work 351
Traction engine for harrowing blue ground 352
Washing machine 353
The old method of separating the diamonds 354
Automatic diamond sorter 355
Map showing location of the principal river stations maintained in the United States .. 357
The approach to Saracen's tent 359
The organ and chimes in the cathedral 360
Stalactites in Luray Cave 361
Flashlight. Wild cat or Lynx 366
Flashlight. Boat rigged for night hunting with cameras 368
Flashlight. Large doe and yearling buck 369
Flashlight. Elk naturalized on shore of Lake Superior 370
Flashlight. Young bull elk 371
Flashlight. Red deer, Canada 372
The hunter's victim 373
Deer taking its own picture 374
The author's camp 375
Flashlight. "Monarch of the night" 376
Flashlight. Deer and porcupine 377
Flashlight. "Innocents abroad." Doe and twin fawns 378
Flashlight. Spike horn buck 379
Flashlight. A victim of the gray wolves 380
Flashlight. Lake Matagamasing, Canada 381
Flashlight. "Hark!" 382
Flashlight. Doe 383
Flashlight. "Midnight reflections 384
Flashlight. "Has he gun or camera" 385
Flashlight. "A midnight wader" 386
Flashlight. Doe 387
Flashlight. Porcupine invades houseboat 388
Yellow hammer or flicker at nesting hole 390
The great white heron 391
"Dignity personified" 392
Young pelicans protesting against the camera 393
Flashlight of pelican on nest 393
Pelican Island, Indian River, Florida 394
The little blue heron in the white or immature age 395
Osprey or fish hawk flying over nest 396
Mallard duck on nest 397
Eggs of the herring gull just hatching 398
Young herring gull out of the shell five minutes 398

Page

Young herring gull. Young crow blackbirds. Willett snipe's nest. Four hundred eggs of the black-headed gull ... 399
The egg of a Phœbe (flycatcher) and seven consecutive days' growth of young (life size) 400
The bird left the nest on the eleventh day ... 401
Avocets flying over Henry's Lake, Idaho ... 402
Stilts, Henry's Lake, Idaho ... 403
Young sandhill crane ... 404
Butterflies feeding on a dead pickerel ... 405
Flashlight. Coon taking his own picture ... 406
Flashlight. Coon taking his own picture ... 407
Combined daylight and flashlight of a porcupine feeding on pond lilies ... 408
Flashlight. Albino porcupine pictured on four successive seasons in same bay ... 409
Young night heron ... 410
A blue-haired quilless porcupine ... 410
Mocking bird in Florida orange grove ... 411
Cedar bird ... 411
Black-headed gull ... 412
Yellow-leg snipe ... 412
Great Northern hare ... 413
Wing shooting with a camera. Robin snipe ... 414
Bonaparte gulls ... 415
Broad-bill duck ... 416
Snipe-shooting over decoys ... 417
Flashlight. Great blue heron asleep ... 418
Flashlight. Snowy owl ... 419
Flashlight. Bull moose ... 420
Flashlight. Cow moose ... 421
Flashlight. Bull moose ... 422
Map of South America (8 by 11 inches) ... Supplement
Arequipa, the chief city of southern Peru ... 433
Peruvian station of Harvard College Observatory, near Arequipa ... 434
Group of Llamas and their Indian drivers ... 435
Lake and glacier in the Aricoma Pass of the eastern Andes ... 436
Mule trail of the Inca Mining Company, eastern slope of the Andes ... 437
Among the eastern foothills of the Andes ... 438
A rubber tree ... 441
A camp in the "rubber country" ... 442
Curing rubber by smoking it. A native hut, eastern Peru ... 443
Natives living on the Tambopata River, a tributary of the Amazon ... 444
The Peruvian military camp near the River Madre de Dios ... 445
A group of Chuncho savages on the bank of the Tambopata ... 447
Cacao or chocolate trees, Ecuador ... 451
The River Iguazu, where three republics meet ... 457
General view of the Falls of Iguazu, from the Brazilian side of the river ... 458
An old timer ... 459
San Ignacio ... 460
Gypsy moth caterpillars beneath burlap ... 460
Various forms of the gypsy moth ... 461
Woodland stripped by gypsy moths ... 462
Dead pines. Stripped by gypsy moths ... 463
Female brown-tail moths laying eggs on cherry ... 464

Page

The obelisk of Pelée ... 466
The obelisk of Pelée ... 467
The shattered obelisk of Pelée ... 469
The dome of Pelée ... 470
The shattered obelisk of Pelée ... 471
Death Valley from summit of Grapevine Range ... 482
Map of Death Valley region, Nevada ... 486
The combination mill at Goldfield. 2. Traveling by coach through the desert. 3. Giant yucca or Joshua tree. 4. Silverbow, a new camp ... 489
Marble Canyon ... 490
Plateau in great dry area, southern end of Belted Range ... 493
Shelter camp in great dry desert ... 494
In Death Valley ... 496
Chart showing number of neat cattle on farms and ranges ... 512
Chart showing number of swine on farms and ranges ... 513
Herd of cattle on the Summer Range ... 515
A half mile of pork ... 516
A thriving family ... 518
The modern method of sheep shearing with the aid of clipping machines ... 519
Band of four thousand wethers ... 520
Sheep Ranch near Billings, Montana ... 522
Second-year young of snapping turtle ... 525
Egg deposits of snapping turtle covered with wire baskets ... 526
The Demé-ranchu ... 527
Varieties of gold-fish (from Japanese paintings) ... 528
Culture pearls ... 530
Terraces of vineyards on the Rhine, near Bingen ... 532
Map of Cuba (12 by 24 inches) ... Supplement
Climbing the Royal palm ... 543
An avenue of Royal palms, Matanzas ... 544
A cocoa grove ... 545
City of Camaguey, Cuba ... 546
Public school, Matanzas ... 547
Class in the corridor of the Royal College of Habana ... 548
The surrender tree, near San Juan Hill ... 549
Cutting and stripping cane ... 550
Transferring cane to sugar mill ... 551
Grove of cocoanut trees ... 552
Ready for picking bananas ... 553
A tobacco plantation ... 554
Bailing tobacco ... 555
Group of orphans, Matanzas ... 556
Destitute children employed in street cleaning at Guanabacoa ... 557
Reform school for boys of Cuba, Guanajay, Cuba ... 558
Reform school for boys of Cuba, Guanajay, Cuba ... 559
Reconcentrados, near Habana, 1898 ... 560
Cuban wagon transportation ... 561
Native white family ... 562
Dimas, a village in Pinar del Rio ... 563
Native colored family ... 564
Reform school for boys of Cuba ... 565

Page

Municipal Hospital No. 1, Habana, Cuba ... 566
Ostriches five days old ... 569
Young ostriches, California ... 570
Ostriches five months old ... 571
Full grown bird at ostrich farm ... 572
Plucking an ostrich ... 573
At Los Angeles, California ... 574
The faithful fuel carriers of Korea ... 576
Placer gold mining in Korea ... 577
Boys who gather grass for fuel. 2. Dead child tied to tree ... 578
An interesting chess problem ... 579
Women's correct street costume in Korea ... 581
First and second courses of wood covered with lump clay. 2. Pile of wood and clay completed and firing begun in one of the flues ... 584
One section of road burned and a section being fired. 2. Partial view of finished road ... 585
Making sketches during eclipse ... 591
Weather Service kite. 2. Spanish boats. 3. Deck of the *Cæsar* ... 592
Gibraltar. 2. U. S. S. *Dixie* ... 595
A Spanish bull fight. 2. The rock of Gilbraltar ... 596
Public fountain, Guelma, Algeria ... 598
Eclipse instruments, Guelma ... 600
Eclipse party at Guelma ... 602
Camp at Daroca. 2. Eclipse party at Daroca, Spain ... 603
Deck of the *Minneapolis* during eclipse ... 604
"The Gates of Heaven"—Porta Coeli, Spain ... 605
Spanish mendicant ... 606
Spanish school ... 607
Visitors at Porta Coeli ... 609
The Three Guardsmen. 2. Spanish-Amercian Complications. 3. Interested visitor. 4. Spanish-Amercian Alliance ... 610
Composite drawing from photographs of the corona ... 613
Village scene in Ceylon ... 614
One of the dagobas at Anuradhapura ... 615
Resting place of the right collar-bone of Buddha ... 616
A view of the steps shown in the preceding picture ... 617
One of the ancient bathing places, Anuradhapura ... 618
The threshold of one of the bathing places, Anuradhapura ... 619
The Rock Temple, Ceylon ... 620
Temple where the tooth of Buddha is supposed to be preserved—Kandy ... 621
View in La Guaira ... 623
Street scene in Caracas ... 624
A coffee train entering Maracaibo ... 626
A coffee mill near Maracaibo ... 627
One of the better class residences of Caracas. 2. A street in Caracas ... 628
A Maracaibo "Caballero" ... 629
A Venezuelan abattoir ... 630
Carnival in Venezuelan town ... 633
The rising generation ... 634
A religious festival on a cocoa estate in Orinoco delta ... 635
Country road near La Guaira ... 636
Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. N. ... 639

Page
Mat Henson 640
A polar bear hunt 641
Musk oxen. Sledding supplies to the land 642
Captain Sam Bartlett 643
Herbert L. Bridgman 643
An Eskimo child. Eskimo man and wife 644
Wild elephants led by tame ones crossing the river, advancing nearer and nearer to the kraal 674
Driving wild elephants across river to kraal at Ayuthia 675
Wild elephants entering the kraal 676
Wild elephants trying to enter the inner kraal 677
Tame elephants assisting to raise the injured elephants 678
About 250 wild elephants at peace in the kraal 679
Setting out to capture the elephants 680
The first young tusker captured and roped by the hind leg 681
Leading out a captured elephant 682
His Majesty the King taking photos during the hunt at the kraal 683
Preparing to hunt outside of the kraal 684
Ayuthia—elephant herd 686
Wild elephants taking a bath in the stream, surrounded by a cordon of tame elephants 687
Wild elephant broken away and fighting tame elephant 688
The King at corner of royal box choosing an elephant 689
The King and suite leaving the kraal after the hunt 690
Natives fording canal on their way home after the hunt 691
Secretary of State Root and the committee of reception at Cartagena, Colombia, September 24, 1906 693
Hand propelled freight boat for shallow tributaries of Magdalena 695
Grand procession in Bogota, on the occasion of the feast of Corpus Christi 696
Small river steamer for tributaries and canals of Magdalena River 697
Bogota is situated at the foot of the mountains on a high plateau 698
Señor Don E. Cortes, Minister of Colombia 700
General Reyes, President of Colombia 700
A scene in Colombia on the upper waters of the river Magdalena 702
On the mule road to Bogota 703
Street scene in Bogota 704

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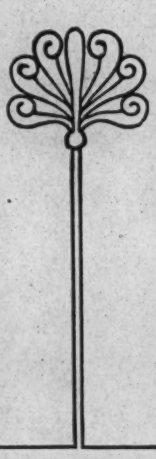

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